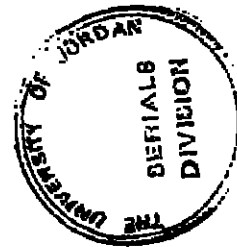


Iran slams Arabs in island row

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has denounced a statement by eight Arab countries, including its close ally Syria, which criticized its tightening hold on a Gulf island. A Foreign Ministry spokesman, quoted by Tehran Radio on Friday, repeated Iran's claim to own Abu Musa Island and said Iran would not allow any country to violate its sovereignty. Foreign ministers of Syria, Egypt and six Gulf states, meeting in the Qatari capital Doha, Thursday condemned Iran's challenge to the United Arab Emirates' partial control over Abu Musa. It was the first time Syria had lined up with the UAE against its ally in the Gulf Cooperation Council — Bahrain. Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia — against Iran in the dispute. "The Doha statement is in flagrant contradiction of the policy of good neighbourliness and spirit of understanding and cooperation among the countries of the region," the Iranian spokesman said. He spoke of the need to "avoid interfering in other countries' internal affairs on foreign provocation," apparently suggesting that the Arab stand was inspired by outside powers. Iran, saying it is responsible for security at Abu Musa, has expelled many foreigners working for the UAE from the island since April.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الواقي»



Iraq warns Turkey over Kurds

ISTANBUL (R) — Iraq will retaliate by supporting Turkish rebel groups if Ankara continues to help dissident Iraqi Kurds, an Iraqi minister said on Friday. Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Saleh told a news conference in Istanbul that a meeting last week between Turkish President Turgut Ozal and Iraqi Kurdish opposition leaders was "meddling in Iraq's internal affairs." Anatolia news agency reported. It quoted Mr. Saleh as saying Iraq would retaliate by "supporting organisations working against Turkey." Mr. Ozal last week accused Iraqi President Saddam Hussein of arming and training Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) guerrillas fighting for an independent state in southeast Turkey. Mr. Saleh, attending an Islamic economic cooperation conference, denied Baghdad was supporting separatist Turkish Kurds. A strong article in Iraq's ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra Thursday said Iraq could tear apart regional security if attempts to undermine its own stability continued. The paper said Turkey was harming its own interests by its "dubious relations with certain agent Kurdish leaders," in the north, where Kurds have won virtual autonomy under the protection of allied warplanes based in Turkey.

Volume 17 Number 5183

AMMAN SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1992, RAB' AL AWAL 15, 1413

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Abu Jaber off to Cairo meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber left Amman Friday for Cairo on the head of the Jordanian delegation which will take part in the meetings of the Arab League Council due to start Saturday. Dr. Abu Jaber said in a statement prior to his departure that the council would discuss the Palestinian issue, the Middle East peace process and the situation in South Lebanon and Somalia. The council will also discuss in its three-day meetings Afro-Arab relations, Arab relations with Latin America and the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Libyan crisis and developments in the Arab-European dialogue, he said.

Russian, Syrian ministers discuss Mideast

MOSCOW (R) — Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev and his Syrian counterpart Farouk Al Shiraa discussed on Friday how best to settle the conflict in the Middle East. ITAR-TASS news agency said. "The current talks are a sign that Russia is beginning to pursue a more active policy in the (Middle East)," TASS quoted Russian Foreign Minister Viktor Posavayuk as saying on the eve of Washington peace talks.

France pleased by Peres' visit results

PARIS (R) — France said Friday it was pleased by the outcome of a three-day visit by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and hailed peace moves by the new Labour government. "This visit represented a qualitative leap forward in relations between the two countries and the intensity of discussions gives future hope of a more intense dialogue," foreign ministry spokesman Maurice Gourdault-Montagne said. Diplomats saw Mr. Peres' visit as a sign of warming relations between Paris and the Jewish state after years of coolness under hardline former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. "We would like to believe that Israel will be able to continue along the path it has taken," Mr. Gourdault-Montagne added. He said Peres and Foreign Minister Roland Dumas had discussed European Community efforts to lift a long-standing Arab boycott of companies doing business with Israel. Mr. Peres met Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac Friday morning before flying back to Israel.

Mitterrand has surgery, feels 'fine'

PARIS (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand underwent a surprise prostate operation Friday but doctors said he was doing well and there was no cause for concern. "The president is feeling fine," said Bernard Debre, head of the urology department at Paris's Cochin Hospital where Mr. Mitterrand, 76 next month, was taken for treatment. "The prostate was completely benign and his post-operative condition is perfectly good."

Cypriot church rejects U.N. proposal

NICOSIA (AP) — The Church of Cyprus Friday announced its rejection of the U.N.'s "set of ideas" for reunification of the island. A church spokesman said the proposals were "completely unacceptable," largely because they fail to guarantee the return of Greek Cypriot refugees who fled the northern portion of the island after Turkey invaded in 1974.

Militants attack police in Egypt

ASSIUT, Egypt (R) — Gunmen thought to be Muslim militants attacked police in Upper Egypt Friday, killing a child and wounding three policemen, security sources said. One gunman fired an automatic rifle at a police posthouse in the village of Kodiet-Muharik before noon and fled the scene. A six-year-old was killed and a police captain and a police constable were wounded in the leg, they said. Gunmen then ambushed police car heading for the scene of the shooting and wounded a third policeman.

Attorney general promises fair trial in Shbeilat-Qarrash case

Openness will reveal all facts and documents, Gen. Mango stresses, vowing to strictly abide by text and spirit of law

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The attorney general of the State Security Court which is handling the Shabbah Al Nafar Al Islami case (Vanguard of Islamic Youth) has promised that the defendants would be granted a fair trial and vowed to strictly abide by the spirit and text of law. "The openness of the trial will reveal all the facts and the documents pertaining to this case for all to see and examine," General Mohammad Mango stressed in a letter addressed to the Jordan Times Friday. "There should be no doubt that the prosecutor-general has been, and will always be, keen to strictly abide by the law — text and spirit," he said. In his letter, which is published in full below, Gen. Mango refuted a claim by the lawyers of Mr. Yaqoub Qarrash and Mr. Leith Shbeilat, the two detainees implicated in the case, that bail would have to be granted following a 10-day incommunicado period. The lawyers had claimed that the prosecutor-general can "renew the ban on contacts (which lasts for 10 days) only once, and then bail would have to be granted."

Gen. Mango countered that the penal code "entitles the prosecutor-general to renew the 'no contact' measure indefinitely." Gen. Mango was responding to a report published in the Jordan Times on Wednesday, Sept. 8, that quoted both Mr. Shbeilat's Attorney, Ibrahim Bakr, and Mr. Qarrash's lawyer, Jamal Dmour, as saying they refused to see their clients in the presence of other officials. Mr. Qarrash was detained two weeks ago and is held in custody for "working to establish and manage an illegal society and collecting donations and financing it, as well as possession of explosives and arms."

Mr. Shbeilat, a close associate of Mr. Qarrash, was detained for questioning and later charged with possession and transporting of weapons, to which he pleaded not guilty. As regards bail for the defendants, Gen. Mango, quoting from the law, said: "No accused person will be released on bail if he is charged with or sentenced in a criminal case which is punishable by death sentence or life imprisonment." The law also stipulates that "bail cannot be granted to anybody charged in a criminal offence." Gen. Mango also said that he found it "strange and extraordinary" that the lawyers of Mr. Qarrash should request access to the papers of investigation. They "know very well that the established and respected legal principle which dictates the confidentiality of investigations and the publicity (sic) of trials," he said adding that the files can only be accessible — "when investigations are completed and the case is referred to court."

Following is the full text of Gen. Mango's letter: I would like to refer to the story attributed to your correspondent Ms. Sana Atiyeh, published on the front page of your newspaper dated Sept. 19, and entitled "Shbeilat questioning called off." In view of the many opinions attributed in the story to the lawyers of the accused detainees, Mr. Leith Shbeilat and Mr. Yaqoub Qarrash, touching on the investigations' procedures carried

(Continued on page 5)

Syria says no unilateral peace accord with Israel

Combined agency dispatches

THE HEAD OF Syria's team to Middle East peace talks with Israel says his country will never accept a unilateral peace treaty with Israel. Mowafiq Al Alfat told the state television Syria wanted "an honorable peace (treaty)" based on the principle of land for peace and within the framework of a comprehensive settlement. "Syria could never ever think of unilateral peace with Israel. The least and minimum Israel can do is to withdraw from every inch of the occupied Arab lands..." he said. Israeli leaders are preparing a document, to be submitted to Syria next week, which states willingness to negotiate the future of the Golan Heights, Israel Radio reported Friday. However, Israel will not agree to discuss "territorial compromise" until outlines what kind of peace it envisages, the radio said. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres were to approve the document which will be presented to Syria when the next round of talks starts in Washington on Monday, Israeli newspapers said. Yossi Gal, spokesman for the Israeli delegation to the talks, could not be reached for comment. On Thursday, Mr. Rabin said for the first time since taking office two months ago that Israel was ready for "territorial compromise" in the Golan in exchange for a full peace that includes open borders and diplomatic relations. However, Mr. Rabin said Israel would not return all of the strategic plateau. Syrian President Hafez Al Assad was quoted as saying he could settle all the issues in a five-minute talk with Mr. Rabin. Unidentified Golan Arabs were quoted by the daily Maariv as saying Mr. Assad told them: "If I were to sit with Rabin for five minutes, we could solve all the problems. We both sincerely want a true peace between Syria and Israel. We've had enough shooting and enough dead."

The Arabs met Mr. Assad in Syria this week. Mr. Rabin has invited all Arab leaders to meet with him, but so far has received no official response. Senior Israeli officials quoted the head of the Syrian negotiating team as saying that everything that had been offered to Israel had Mr. Assad's backing and that Mr. Assad had taken "a sincere and true decision to reach peace with Israel." The quotes were carried by the Haaretz daily. The news reports said a Syrian document presented to Israel in the last round of talks demanded full Israeli withdrawal on all fronts, including the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Syrians offered to discuss mutual security arrangements, but in return demanded a demilitarisation of the Golan as well as northern Israel's narrow Galilee peninsula, Haaretz said. It quoted senior Israeli officials as saying the demand to demilitarise

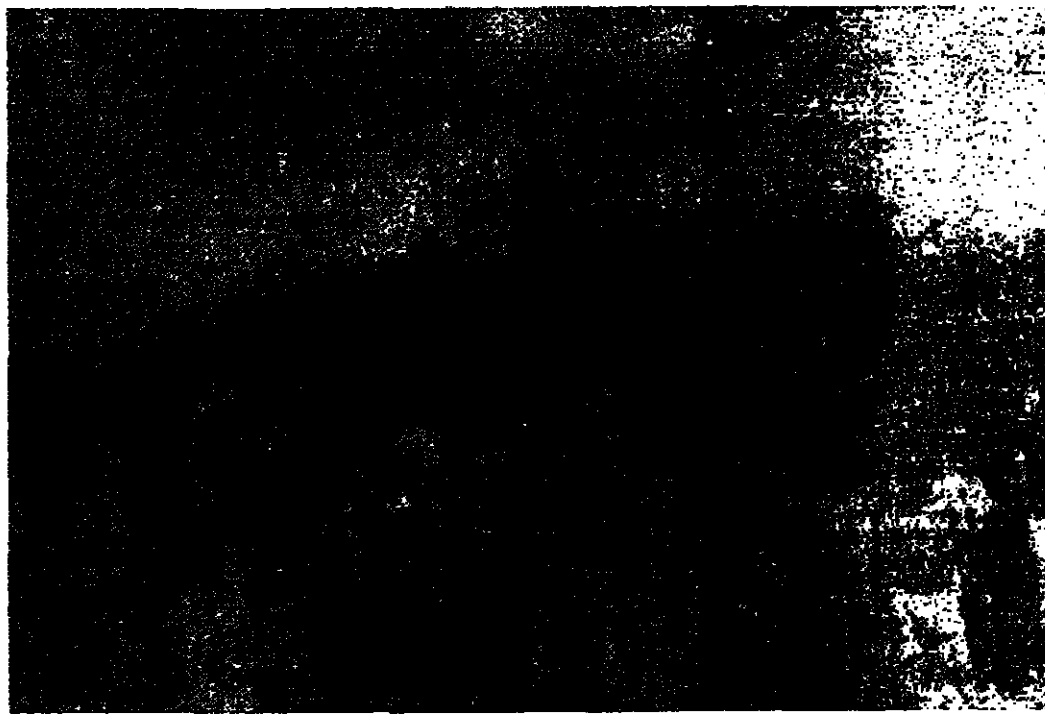
(Continued on page 4)

Palestinians seek Israeli undertaking

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestinian peace negotiators flew to Washington Friday in search of an Israeli commitment to match its promises to Syria with similar promises on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Thursday that Israel would withdraw from at least part of the Golan Heights in exchange for full peace with Damascus. The Palestinians, who consulted with Yasser Arafat and other Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader in Tunis this week in advance of talks with Israel Monday, will ask Israel for an undertaking to put U.N. resolutions into practice, a senior PLO official said. "An Israeli statement on its readiness to implement resolutions 242 and 338 with the Palestinians, as it did on Thursday with Syria, would be an important factor and would facilitate negotiations on the interim self-rule arrangements," PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo told Reuters. "The Israeli acceptance to implement Resolution 242 in the Golan Heights is an important factor if it implies a commitment to full withdrawal from Syrian territories, and would be an important factor if it includes the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip," Mr. Abed Rabbo added. "In the light of such an Israeli commitment, we are ready to start discussing the details of the interim arrangements (for Palestinian self-rule)," he said. The Palestinians expect the next session of peace talks will start with Israel responding to the 10-point self-rule plan they put forward earlier in September. Chief delegate Haidar Abdul Shafi, overall coordinator Faisal Al Hussini and spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi met the PLO on Wednesday and Thursday to discuss peace strategy. While most of the delegation flew to Washington, Mr. Hussein flew to Cairo, where he is due to take part in a meeting of Arab League foreign ministers next week as a member of the Palestinian delegation.

Beilin in Cairo

Yossi Beilin, Israel's deputy foreign minister, arrived in Cairo Friday on a three-day visit during which he is to hold talks with Egyptian officials on the peace process. Shortly after his arrival, Mr. Beilin said it was his duty to keep 148 Iraqi aircraft, including the cream of Baghdad's air force, which took refuge in Iran during the six-week conflict over Kuwait in early 1991. Two U.S. air force F-16 fighter jets Thursday intercepted what was believed to be an Iraqi fighter "violating" the "no-fly zone" but



Somalia refugees wait in line at a food distribution point in Belet Hnen, Somalia

U.N. says it is planning 'huge' increase in Somalia relief efforts

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — The United Nations is planning a huge increase in its relief operations to starving Somalia, top U.N. officials said Friday. Private aid groups have accused U.N. relief agencies of doing too little, too late to avert the world's worst humanitarian crisis. "You will see a sizeable increase in the U.N. presence ... and a considerable increase in the relief effort," said U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Jan Eliasson, who is leading the most senior U.N. team yet to visit Somalia. He told Reuters the relief drive would include both emergency aid and long-term assistance. Aid workers estimate that some two million people are in immediate danger of starving to death and calculate more than two-thirds of the entire population of around seven million needs emergency food assistance. "We have to deal with an acute relief situation here, but at the same time we have to send a message of hope to the people," Mr. Eliasson said. U.N. sources said Mr. Eliasson and other senior U.N. officials accompanying him on a three-day tour of the wrecked Horn of Africa nation would urge U.N. agencies not yet present on the ground to open offices as quickly as possible. "At the same time, there will be an increase in the staff of the agencies already here," said a U.N. official. The U.N. pulled its staff out of Somalia during heavy fighting that preceded the January 1991 fall from power of soldier-dictator Mohammad Siad Barre. Several U.N. agencies, such as the World Health Organisation and the Food and Agriculture Organisation, have never returned. The U.N. action was in sharp contrast to a handful of independent aid groups and the Red Cross which stayed throughout even-worse inter-tribe fighting. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which returned in December 1991, is shouldering most of the U.N.'s current relief effort. But it is poorly staffed and under-financed. On Friday, the U.N. postponed airdrops of food for starving people in rural areas until the weekend to better organise ground operations, a U.N. agency spokeswoman said. Also reportedly delayed was the expected Saturday arrival of the first contingent of 3,500 armed U.N. guards the Security Council has authorised to be deployed in Somalia. Meanwhile, U.S. military planes airlifting rice, beans, grain

and oil to the western town of Belet Hnen were forced to return to their Kenyan base because of a dispute among Somali truckers in the village. The Friday airdrops were postponed so relief workers could better organise ground operations, said Brenda Barton, spokeswoman for the U.N. World Food Programme. "Everything has to be in perfect order, otherwise it could be a dangerous operation," Ms. Barton said. A senior U.N. official on Thursday presented to one of Somalia's main warlords, General Mohammed Farrah Aideed, a plan for bringing food to the country's small villages, but failed to win his immediate approval. As for the U.N. troops, the first 60 of 500 troops from Pakistan are not scheduled to arrive until Tuesday. The sources said the delay was reported to their offices by U.N. authorities in Mogadishu. It was not immediately confirmed by U.S. military authorities, who are to transport the troops. The first of seven U.S. planes were unable to land on Friday after the angered losing party in a

(Continued on page 5)

'Health minister' approved toxic dumping, U.N. official says, page 2

Iraq boosts flights to monitor Western patrols in south

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQI PLANES have stepped up flights north of a "no-fly" zone in southern Iraq in a game of "cat-and-mouse" with Western patrols, a British air force officer said. Group Captain Malcolm 'Raz' Ball gave few details of the Iraqi patrols but said Baghdad could now muster between 300 and 400 military aircraft — about half its air force's strength before the Gulf war — despite a U.N. trade embargo on spares. Capt. Ball commands British Tornado fighters flying reconnaissance missions over the Western air exclusion zone south of the 32nd Parallel. He told Reuters late Thursday that theoretically, the Iraqi planes should not be operable but Iraq's borders "leak like sieves" and spare parts are coming through. Capt. Ball declined to say what types of Iraqi planes had been spotted by coalition aircraft patrolling the "no-fly zone" set up two weeks ago in an oblique bid to protect Shiite Muslim dissidents. Iran has said it plans to keep 148 Iraqi aircraft, including the cream of Baghdad's air force, which took refuge in Iran during the six-week conflict over Kuwait in early 1991. Two U.S. air force F-16 fighter jets Thursday intercepted what was believed to be an Iraqi fighter "violating" the "no-fly zone" but

no shots were fired in the brief encounter, the U.S. Defence Department said. Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams said the French-built F-1 "Mirage" jet, believed to be an Iraqi aircraft, flew approximately five kilometres north of the 36th Parallel but left the zone as it was intercepted. "It simply quickly turned south and retreated below the 36th Parallel," Mr. Williams told reporters. "It is a technical violation of the 'no-fly zone.' We don't know whether it was inadvertent or inadvertent." British pilots said they believed there was a real risk that Iraqi aircraft would try to shoot them down if they strayed outside the limit. U.S. air force pilots said on Tuesday Iraq was sending about 30 military planes at a time into the sky north of exclusion zone in the south but they were not behaving in a threatening manner. British wing commander Bob Iveson said the Tornado jets — which are doing most of the ground reconnaissance for the allied patrols — were flying right up to the 32nd Parallel. Destruction of arms In Baghdad, a U.N. chemical weapons expert said Friday he expected Iraq to begin destroying its stocks of nerve gas before the end of the month and of mustard gas shortly afterwards.

Briton Ron Manley, wrapping up a week-long inspection visit, said two destruction plants at Iraq's former chemical weapons complex at Muthana northwest of Baghdad were complete. "It's been a very satisfactory week. Both plants are complete and are operating on test materials," he told reporters. Mr. Manley said he would report to the head of the U.N. special commission destroying Iraq's weapons of mass destruction under the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire. The commission chief would then give Iraq the go-ahead to start bulk destruction under U.N. supervision. "I would expect it to be operating before next month," he said of the hydrolysis plant which will destroy the nerve gas. Hydrolysis is the decomposition of a substance by chemical reaction with water. An Iraqi opposition group insisted Friday the Iraqi army was continuing to shell villages in southern marshlands. "This is the fifth day that (Iraq) has continued shelling the marshes — it's been going on 24 hours a day," Saad Jabr of the free Iraq council told Reuters by telephone. Capt. Ball said Tornado planes overflying the exclusion zone could not verify U.S. and Iranian reports that villages were being shelled. The British planes are equipped with thermal imagery sensors capable of spotting gunfire.

U.N. official: 'Health minister' okayed toxic waste dumping plan in Somalia

NAIROBI (AP) — The top U.N. environmental official on Thursday linked Somalia's self-proclaimed health minister to an alleged plan by Italian and Swiss businesses to dump toxic wastes in the starving nation.

But as hazardous wastes from abroad threatened to arrive on Somalia's shores, the scarce drinking water of the country's north was jeopardised by a chemical spill at a pesticide warehouse, Mustafa Tolba said.

However, Mr. Tolba said 81,200 litres of toxic chemicals had spilled in Somalia's north and were threatening the region's scarce supplies of drinking water.

Mr. Tolba, executive director of the U.N. Environment Programme, made the announcement in a statement from his headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.

His spokesman, Tore Brevik, would not provide further details about the incident.

Mr. Tolba said his agency was holding talks with the Italian and Swiss governments to elicit their cooperation in preventing the hazardous waste disposals.

The U.N. environmental chief, who has accused the companies of trying to take advantage of Somalia's anarchy, would not identify them or comment on the substance of his negotiations with

the Italian and Swiss governments.

He said he had no evidence to support allegations that hazardous wastes already had been dumped along the Indian Ocean coast.

Somalia is in the grip of a devastating famine that already has killed tens, if not hundreds of thousands of people. Another two million people are at immediate risk of starvation and the international community is mounting relief efforts to feed them.

In Brussels, Belgium, the European Community (EC) Thursday approved the unprecedented use of development aid for military purposes in an attempt to get food transports to the needy in Somalia, officials said.

The 12 member states released \$27 million in development funds to send 550 Belgian paratroops to protect food deliveries. By some estimates, marauding gunmen in the lawless country have stolen up to half of all the relief supplies delivered.

Mr. Tolba claimed the toxic dumping companies had entered into an \$80 million, 20-year contract with a man named Nur Elmy Osman, who described himself as Somalia's minister for health.

In Somalia, cabinet officials exist in name only. Since United Somali Congress (USC) rebels toppled dictator Mohammad Siad Barre in January 1991, Somalia has had no central government and has been riven by clan fighting.

There are no telecommunications with Somalia, and it was not possible to call Mogadishu to seek comment from Mr. Osman.

In a radio broadcast monitored in Nairobi, warlord Ali Mahdi Muhammad, named Somalia's interim president by his supporters, denied his officials ever had entered into an agreement to permit toxic dumping.

Each of the 110,000 — to 165,000-tonne shipments of waste was to have yielded a profit of \$8 million to \$10 million, with the Swiss getting a \$2 million to \$3 million cut from each, Mr. Tolba said. It was unclear how many shipments were involved or whether the Italians would receive the entire balance of the profits, but on Friday, Mr. Tolba spoke of 1.1 million tonnes of waste.

"We are dealing with a mafia as bad as the mafia of arms sales," Mr. Tolba said Friday when he first discussed the dumping plans. "Some of my colleagues are really frightened for their lives."

Book discloses American monitoring flights over Golan

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States flies regular reconnaissance missions over the occupied Golan Heights and provides information to Syria and Israel, an American academician said in a book published Thursday.

Diplomats confirmed the overflights but declined to discuss details.

The flights, which have rarely if ever been acknowledged publicly, have been conducted since 1974 with the tacit agreement of both countries, said Michael Kre-

pon, director of the Henry L. Stimson Centre for Arms Control.

The flights are conducted under the auspices of the United Nations, which monitors the 1974 disengagement agreement between the two sides, said Mr. Krepon in a book published Thursday by the congressionally funded U.S. Institute for Peace.

Mr. Krepon did not provide details, arguing that the secrecy surrounding the U.S. flights was one of the clues to their success.

Ex-U.N. officials say mercenaries shot down Hammarskjöld's plane

LONDON (AP) — The plane which crashed Sept. 17, 1961 in Africa killing U.N. Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld was shot down by mercenaries working for Belgian-led mining interests, two former U.N. officials said Friday.

George Ivan Smith and Conon Cruise O'Brien, who were United Nations representatives in the 1960s in Katanga province, now called Shaba, gave the account in a letter in the Guardian.

The plane carrying Mr. Hammarskjöld and 16 other people including six Swedish crewmen crashed near Ndola in what was then northern Rhodesia and is now in Zambia.

The Guardian said a Rhodesian inquiry panel ruled at the time there was "no evidence to support any suggestion that the aircraft was fired upon."

But it quoted Mr. Smith, 77, as saying in an interview with the paper that the mercenaries had admitted in 20 taped interviews that they fired on Mr. Hammarskjöld's plane from two De Havilland dove aircraft specially fitted with machine guns.

The paper said it was the first time the details contained in the letter had been made public.

Mr. O'Brien, a former U.N. ambassador and Irish cabinet minister, is one of Ireland's leading political commentators. He and Mr. Smith in the letter drew a parallel between Mr. Hammarskjöld's death and four Italians killed when their military transport plane was shot down Sept. 3 over war-torn Bosnia.

"Yet again United Nations personnel are being killed in peacekeeping and humanitarian missions," they wrote.

"Now the Italian crew... have been shot down we feel it is time that we should say that we are convinced that... Hammarskjöld was killed in the same way."

Mr. Hammarskjöld, a Swede, was flying to Ndola from Leopoldville, now called Kin-

asa, the capital of the Congo, now called Zaire, to meet with Moise Tshombe to try to persuade him to end his breakaway movement in Katanga.

When the Belgian Congo became independent in 1960, Mr. Tshombe became provisional president of Katanga, a rich mining province with copper, cobalt, uranium and other minerals. He proclaimed Katanga to be in secession from the rest of the Congo.

Civil war ensued. It ended in 1963 with the use of U.N. troops and Mr. Tshombe was forced to capitulate.

The letter said: "The European industrialists... had sent two aircraft to intercept Mr. Hammarskjöld before he met Tshombe so that they could persuade him to cooperate. They never meant to kill him."

"Ivan Smith has gathered startling evidence that the industrialists gave their two rogue pilots permission to send a warning shot across the U.N. plane if it refused to divert to Kamina (610 kilometres northwest of Ndola) for consultations. The warning shot must have hit a wire."

The letter described Mr. Tshombe as "black stooge" of the European industrialists.

But Mr. Smith was quoted as saying in the interview that the industrialists feared Mr. Tshombe would cave in to Mr. Hammarskjöld if the two met, to the detriment of the industrialists' interests.

The Guardian quoted Mr. Smith as saying the mercenaries were acting under orders from a group consisting of the Belgian conglomerate union Minière du Haut Katanga and British and American interests.

It quoted Mr. Smith as saying the 20 taped interviews were originally collected by a friend, a senior French diplomat, in the 1970s. Mr. Smith came into possession of the tapes about five years ago, it said.

Croatia confirms seizure of 'Iranian' weapons

ZAGREB, Croatia (Agencies) — Croatian authorities have confirmed that they have seized a shipment of weapons and ammunition from Iran en route to Muslim-led fighters in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The shipment, that was listed as humanitarian aid, landed in Zagreb last Friday aboard an Iranian-owned Boeing 747, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The statement said that Croatian inspectors, in the presence of representatives of the U.N. Protection Force in Croatia (UNPROFOR), found "a certain amount of light infantry weaponry and ammunition" among the goods.

The Croatian government has asked Iran for an explanation of why the arms were being shipped to neighbouring Bosnia, where majority Muslims and Croats have been battling Serbs over the country's break from Serb-led Yugoslavia. The government also asked the U.N. sanctions committee for instructions, the statement added.

The airplane was returned to Iran, but the weapons were impounded in a guarded warehouse, the ministry said. It did not specify who was guarding the warehouse.

A top U.N. official, speaking only on condition of anonymity, confirmed the incident, but said UNPROFOR was not guarding the warehouse. The official refused to give any more details.

An international weapons embargo against former Yugoslavia has been in effect for over a year.

In Washington, the U.S. government praised the seizure. "This prompt commendable action by Croatia was entirely in keeping with the United Nations arms embargo," said U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher.

The Iranian action, on the other hand was an effort to contravene the U.N. arms embargo which Iran, as a U.N. member state, is duty-bound to uphold," said Mr. Boucher.

The New York Times, citing officials in Washington, reported Thursday that the Iranian airliner was carrying 4,000 rifles and one million rounds of ammunition for Muslim fighters in Bosnia.

It was the first confirmed report of an Islamic nation allegedly attempting to smuggle arms to the Bosnian government and was likely to feed Serbs claims that they are fighting Islamic fundamentalism in Yugoslavia.

In fact, Bosnian Muslims are among the most secular in the world.

When war erupted in Bosnia-Herzegovina last spring, Croats and Muslims were allied in their fight against the Serbs.

However, despite a formal defence pact signed in June between Bosnia's Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic and his Croatian counterpart Franjo Tudjman, relations between the two groups have soured.

Muslims accuse Croats of secretly conspiring with Serbs to carve Bosnia-Herzegovina between their two ethnic groups. Ethnic Serbs have seized about two-thirds of Bosnia's territory, and Croats claim to hold nearly 30 per cent.

Croat forces close to Sarajevo last month turned back at least two arms shipments to the capital's besieged defenders, Bosnian defence officials said.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Ledkey will go to Cyprus with new ideas

NICOSIA (R) — Nelson Ledkey, the U.S. State Department's coordinator on Cyprus, has said that he was going to the divided island in a week's time with "some new" ideas. "My target is to facilitate the resumption of the peace talks," Mr. Ledkey told Cypriot reporters via satellite from Washington. "We are a long way from getting an agreement but I do believe that in many of the issues the two sides have come closer," he added. Peace talks in New York between President George Vassiliou and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş adjourned until October 26.

14 die in Turkish-Kurdish fighting

AGRI, Turkey (AP) — In five separate incidents, one of them at the foot of historic Mount Ararat, 14 people were killed in fresh fighting between Kurdish guerrillas and Turkish soldiers, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported Thursday. Kurdish rebels killed five soldiers and two children in a clash in the village of Aladag Musabey near Mount Ararat, the mythical site of Noah's Ark, the dispatch said. Two children were also killed when a six firing sparked a blaze in a pile of grass where they were hiding. Six soldiers were killed in two other clashes in the southeastern provinces of Sirnak and Siirt on Wednesday, a local official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said. Sirnak was severely damaged after two days of fighting inside the city of 25,000 last month, which forced thousands of residents to emigrate. A village, who was caught up in the fighting, also died in the clash in Siirt, the official added. The guerrillas hanged a village guard in the village of Yuzbasilar in the eastern province of Igdir, Anatolia said. The village guards, armed by the government against the guerrillas, are frequent targets of the rebels. The guerrillas are from the illegal Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), which has been fighting for self-rule in southeastern Turkey since 1984. More than 4,500 people guerrillas, civilians and soldiers have died in the fighting.

Mums training for birth among Eilat dolphins

TEL AVIV (AP) — The obstetrician of six British women hoping to give birth among dolphins in the Red Sea said Thursday she was trying to get the Israeli health authorities to reverse their ban of the unorthodox birthing plan. Meanwhile, the expectant mothers were still training in a pool with the dolphins in Eilat. "It's bureaucracy I think, only bureaucracy," Dr. Gwori Motha said to reporters. Her comments came a day after Israel's health ministry informed the mothers and the dolphin sanctuary that births were forbidden at unlicensed installations. Dr. Motha told the Associated Press in London before flying to Eilat that she wanted to see whether the dolphins could make contact with the fetuses through ultrasonic waves. According to the plan, the mothers will give birth in a glass-walled sterile pool so that the dolphins can watch. Mr. Motha said. Hayim Boichis, head of the health ministry's medical-professional licensing department, said the ministry would consider a request for a foreign doctor to work here, provided it came from a hospital. "But we will not allow this stunt to take place on an Eilat beach," Professor Boichis told the Jerusalem Post newspaper. Dr. Motha said the health ministry refused to meet with her directly and she turned to the local hospital in Eilat where she said her plan received support. "Everyone was full of confidence in what I do and the safety of the mothers was not an issue," she said. The first birth is expected before Sept. 24, Dr. Motha said.

Mubarak to visit Far East in mid-October

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak will visit China, Pakistan and North Korea in mid-October on a tour aimed at increasing political and economic relations. Authoritative newspaper Al-Ahram in its early Friday edition gave no source for the report. Presidency officials were not available for comment.

Food aid announced for Afghanistan

ROME (AP) — About 4,000 tonnes of emergency food aid will be sent to more than 120,000 Afghan people displaced by recent fighting and floods, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has said. It said the World Food Programme (WFP) had already delivered 1,000 tonnes of food aid to Pakistan and northern Afghanistan aimed at helping displaced people north and east of Kabul, the capital. Despite a ceasefire announced in embattled Kabul, the city remains without food, drinking water or electricity. In addition, an estimated 1,000 homes and countless hectares of crops were destroyed in the Gulbaber valleys of the Hindu Kush Mountains after flash floods devastated the area Sept. 3. The first shipment of 56 tonnes of the new WFP food aid will be distributed in Kabul by the World Health Organisation and local government authorities. Further supplies will be allocated depending on this operation. Between January and August of this year, the WFP said it supplied 71,000 tonnes of food aid to the over one million Afghan refugees repatriated from Pakistan and to refugees already inside the country.

Kuwait ruler visits Maldives

MALE (R) — Kuwait's emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, arrived in the Maldives Friday as part of a global tour to thank allies for their support during the Gulf war. He was met by President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, one of the leaders who condemned Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Officials said the emir was to officially express his gratitude to Mr. Gayoom later during the day-long visit, which was preceded by trips to Australia and New Zealand. Mr. Gayoom, who was nearly toppled by Sri Lankan mercenaries in November 1988, has been a strong advocate of protection and security for small and vulnerable states. The 200,000 people of the Indian Ocean archipelago are Muslim.

Iranian squad nabs fish pond moonshiners

NICOSIA (R) — They had the perfect cover for the smell, but the Iranian vice squad caught up with moonshiners running a secret still in a fish and poultry farm. The emir's Abur newspaper said Thursday revolutionary guards uncovered a "big alcoholic beverage plant" in Babol near the Caspian coast which distributed its products "around the province and the country in false-bottomed tankers." Boozie containers up to 1,000 litres were seized.

'Russia, China sell reactors to Iran'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Russia and China have agreed despite U.S. objections to sell nuclear reactors and technology to Iran, a combination of U.S. and Iranian officials said Thursday.

Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani, on a visit to Beijing, confirmed that China had agreed to sell his country the makings of a 300-megawatt reactor for "peaceful" purposes. He gave no details.

Russia has agreed to sell Iran two 440-megawatt reactors and to provide some 170 technicians to install and operate it, said the Mujahadeen-e-Khalq of Iran, the largest anti-government opposition movement.

A U.S. official said the deal likely will be announced Sept. 21. The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the United States had sought to dissuade the Russians from completing the deal.

"We're concerned about the political symbolism," he said. "It's not that we think the reactors mean Iran will have bombs in five years," the official added.

Even if the reactors were transferred tomorrow, he added, it

would take years for them to begin work.

Russia, China and Iran all insist that the reactors and related technology are designed to produce nuclear energy. But U.S. officials say Iran plans to produce nuclear weapons and could easily convert the plants to military use.

The United States had urged China, which was a major arms supplier to Iran during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, to reject the Iranian nuclear deal.

Chinese officials insisted, however, that the reactor was non-military. They pointed out that earlier this year they signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty which bars the transfer of nuclear technology for military use.

Iran had been seeking two 300-megawatt reactors from China, and it was unclear why it did not get both. The reactor will be modelled after the Qinshan reactor which began trial operation last December in east China's Zhejiang province.

The reactor will be installed at Darkhoi, a nuclear site 40 kilometres south of the Iranian city of Ahvaz, said the Mujah-

deen's Washington spokesman, Alireza Jafarzadeh.

Building at the site was begun by the late Shah Reza Pahlavi in the 1970s for a planned reactor from Germany. But the project was never completed, and Germany has rejected recent Iranian pressure to sell the reactors promised to the Shah, according to a U.S. official.

At least four Chinese nuclear experts are located at Darkhoi, said Mr. Jafarzadeh.

Eighteen Russian nuclear technicians have been hired by Iran and are stationed at Gorgan, a nuclear site near the Caspian Sea where the Russian reactors are to be installed, he said.

In the first six months of this year, Iran has spent \$80 million on preparing the site at Gorgan, he said.

Iran has allocated at least \$800 million in 1992 — a fourfold increase from 1991 — for the nuclear programme Mr. Jafarzadeh said.

Iran has also sent 20 technicians and engineers to China and another 22 to Pakistan for training, he said.

Strict conditions urged on Israeli loan guarantees

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The United States should insist on strict conditions before granting Israel's request for \$10,000 million in housing loan guarantees, according to Brewster Grace, a Quaker scholar who is currently serving as the American Friends Service Committee's Middle East representative.

Mr. Grace told reporters at a Thursday briefing that Washington, as a sponsor of the peace talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours, must be more even-handed in its role as a catalyst for peace if it is to maintain credibility with the Arab participants — particularly the Palestinians.

"While U.S. officials praise the new intentions of Israel to negotiate, they continue to press Palestinians to come up with 'realistic' proposals for something much less than a legitimate assembly that for Palestinians has been the minimally acceptable manifestation of self-determination," Mr. Grace noted in a paper that accompanied his remarks.

The peace process, which is currently in its sixth round, involves direct peace talks between Israel and Jordan, Israel and Syria and Israel and Lebanon. An Israeli team is also holding direct talks with Palestinian negotiators on interim self-governing arrangements in the territories occupied by Israel since the 1967 war.

Although he indicated that U.S. approval for the Israeli loan guarantees is "inevitable," Mr. Grace suggested that Washington "rebalance the pressure" it has applied during the peace process by placing strict and meticulously applied conditions on the loans.

In addition to making "dollar for dollar" reductions for money spent by Israel to build Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, Washington could impose "conditions" for any continued subsidies that help draw Israelis to those settlements, said Mr. Grace, who has been based in Amman for the past four years.

He added that the United States should consider reopening dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), as a "confidence-building measure."

Washington seems to be satisfied with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's "freeze" on Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, and the Bush administration has agreed "in principle" to support the loan guarantees. But Mr. Grace emphasised that the policy will actually allow construction of 10,000 new housing units in the West Bank and Gaza Strip — enough to house 50,000 new settlers.

Mr. Grace considers this "limited freeze" an improvement of the policies pursued by Mr. Rabin's predecessor, Yitzhak Shamir, but pointed out that Palestinians cannot be expected to view it as a significant step forward. "The settlements are, after all, illegal, and the cessation of an illegal act should not be rewarded," Mr. Grace noted in his paper.

At the same time, Mr. Grace said he is convinced that Mr. Rabin is committed to reducing all of the subsidies that have made housing in the occupied territories appealing to Israeli settlers. In fact, since Mr. Rabin's election this summer, new housing sales in the West Bank have dropped 80 per cent. He suggested that Mr. Rabin is allowing completion of the 10,000 units in question only because the contracts for those units were already signed, and the government would have had to pay large penalties for their cancellation.

Moreover, Mr. Grace said that Mr. Rabin seems committed to using the requested loan for housing within Israel's 1967 borders, and for reform of the country's economy.

From his perspective, Mr. Grace said, if Israel is committed to progress in the peace talks, it should, at a minimum: Fully restore human rights in the occupied territories; withdraw all of its troops to clearly defined security zones; provide the Palestinians with full authority over their land and water; and leave the door open to further autonomy.

He predicted that Mr. Rabin, who is very security conscious ("although not in an ideological sense"), will move very slowly in his negotiations with the Palestinians to prevent any further destabilisation of the occupied territories.

But Mr. Grace underlined that if Washington mishandles the loan guarantees, it could undermine Arab confidence that further progress will be put on hold until after the November presidential elections.

"In the meantime," he said, "housing construction would continue and up to 50,000 new settlers could find homes in the occupied territories, seriously impairing Palestinians' capacity to negotiate at all."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TVC	
18:00	Los Aventureros de Bosco
18:30	Operation Mozart
19:00	News in French
19:15	Footage sur
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Super Bloppers
21:00	Examiner
21:30	Varities
21:50	News in English
22:20	Feature Film: "She knows too much"
PRAYER TIMES	
06:54	Fajr
08:11	(Sunrise) Dhuha
12:33	Dhuhr
16:05	'Asr
19:52	Maghrib
20:10	'Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 773111	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261	
St. Yohann Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675491	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	17 / 28
Aqaba	23 / 34
Dead Sea	16 / 33
Jordan Valley	22 / 35
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 28, Aqaba 33, Humidity readings: Amman 60 per cent, Aqaba 52 per cent.	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Walid Sababneh 779977
Dr. Salhan Al Daboubi 776751
Dr. Khalil Al Jabali 740740
Dr. Ahmad Dabab 791257
First pharmacy 619192
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Anwar pharmacy 637055
Nairook pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yasouf pharmacy 644945
Stimelal pharmacy 637660

EBSD:
Dr. Mahmoud Saoud (—)
Al Shara'a pharmacy (773825)

ZARQA:
Dr. Mishal Hijawi (—)
Khalil pharmacy 954547

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Civil Defence Emergency 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 871228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 607880
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdull Telephone Repair 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 773111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636391

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khald Maternity, J. Amn 642616
Al-Khal Maternity, J. Amn 624412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642662
Mishal, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsani 6641714
St. Michael Hospital 659123
University Hospital 842845
Al-Musharraf Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdull 66612757
Al-Ahli, Abdull 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah 77511126
Army, Marja 89161115
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
Amal Hospital 647935

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)883323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)800560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)86732

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)520205, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

7:10-15 Beirut (RJ)
7:20-25 Damascus (RJ)
12:30-35 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:40-45 Istanbul (RJ)
12:45-50 Paris, Brussels (RJ)
12:50-55 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
13:00-05 Cairo (RJ)
13:05-10 London (RJ)
13:10-15 Jeddah (RJ)
13:15-20 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
13:20-25 Larnaca (RJ)
13:25-30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

6:00-05 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, (RJ)
6:10-15 New Delhi (RJ)
6:20-25 Dhahran (RJ)
6:30-35 Damascus (RJ)
6:35-40 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
11:00-05 Colombo (RJ)
11:10-15 Beirut (RJ)
11:15-20 Cairo (RJ)
11:20-25 Bangkok (RJ)
11:25-30 Istanbul (RJ)
11:30-35 Bangkok (RJ)
11:35-40 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
11:40

Medical association signs cooperation agreement with Yemen

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Medical Association and its Yemeni counterpart Thursday concluded an agreement of cooperation under which representatives from both associations will take part in medical and scientific conference, to be held in both countries and exchange findings of studies and medical research.

The agreement also calls for facilitating the employment of Jordanian doctors in Yemen and medical treatment of Yemeni nationals in Jordan.

The two associations also issued a statement confirming support for Jordan in its courageous stand to counter external pressure and attempts to destabilise it and jeopardise its democratic march.

The statement also called for safeguarding the unity of Iraq, urging "nations to provide support to the Iraqi people and to lift the economic embargo imposed on the country for more than two years."

The statement called for supporting the just and legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people to enable them to gain their freedom, independence and self-determination.

Irsheidat chairs sports committee meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Youth Minister Saleh Irsheidat Thursday chaired a meeting for the sports development committee which aims at coordinating sport and youth activities within a comprehensive national strategy.

Mr. Irsheidat said the committee had worked out a draft work plan assessing the sport situation in Jordan and formulating a national strategy for sports.

In an address to IPU meeting

Lawzi says Jordan committed for democracy, just peace

STOCKHOLM (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi said Friday that Jordan has shouldered the major burden of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Gulf crises.

In an address to the 88th meeting of the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Stockholm, Mr. Lawzi said that Jordan, along with the other Arab parties to the peace process, is seeking a just, durable and honourable settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. He said the settlement should lead to an Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab lands.

"Ever since 1967, Jordan has been declaring its acceptance of Resolution 242 for the sake of achieving just peace in the area which has been suffering from the Cold War, regional conflicts and attempts by a number of powers to expand their regional hegemony," said Mr. Lawzi "cooperation among members of the world community would help the region find the long-sought peace," said Mr. Lawzi.

He said, Jordan had shouldered the brunt of the regional conflicts and its economy has

been facing extremely heavy burdens as a result of the Gulf war and the return of hundreds of thousands of expatriates from the Gulf states.

Mr. Lawzi called for the implementation of U.N. resolutions relevant to the Arab-Israeli conflict in order to achieve durable peace, saying that Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the Palestinians have been involved in the U.S.-sponsored peace talks to achieve that goal.

He said the Arab parties to the peace talks hope the process will ensure Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab lands, including Arab Jerusalem, a halt in Israel's settlement programmes, a comprehensive solution for all aspects of the Middle East conflict, the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights and a lasting solution to the Palestinian refugee problem.

Despite the enormous burdens it has been shouldering over the past four decades the Kingdom has been relentlessly working towards building democracy on very sound and firm basis, said Mr. Lawzi.

He said Jordan applying political pluralism in various aspects



Ahmad Al Lawzi

of life and upgrading and modernising laws and legislations through Parliament in order to achieve that goal.

Mr. Lawzi referred to the Jordan's participation in the peace keeping forces in Yugoslavia, Namibia, Angola and Cambodia, as well as its humanitarian and relief supplies to Sudan, Yugoslavia and Somalia, which are facing hunger and natural disasters.

He said Jordan's efforts aim at promoting the cause of peace world-wide.

Donations for needy reach JD63,000

AMMAN (J.T.) — A committee set up by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs to raise donations for the needy people in Jordan has collected JD63,000 over the past two days from Jordanian citizens and institutions, according to an announcement by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi.

The minister said the collection of contributions was continuing and mosque preachers Friday were instructed to call on Jordanian citizens to contribute generously towards helping the poor.

The minister made the statement following a committee meeting under his chairmanship. The meeting decided to form a sub-committee to operate in the governorates and district gov-

ernorates. These sub-committees have been instructed to guide citizens and spread awareness as well as collect the donations for the needy, said the minister in a statement on Jordan Television.

A central executive committee was also formed grouping Parliament members and representatives of merchants and private sector institutions.

The committee was formed at the request of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, following a message from His Majesty King Hussein requesting that all spending on celebrations over his recovery be diverted to charity.

According to the minister, the sub-committees in the provinces are now collecting donations to the needy families under the supervision of governors and other

officials.

Dr. Ahmad Hilayel, secretary general of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and member of the executive committee, told the Jordan Times Friday that the central committee has so far raised JD100,000 from various organisations.

Dr. Hilayel said the sub-committees are currently studying the lists of names of needy families before making the distribution of the donations.

He said that the committees will end its work upon return of King Hussein to the country and when the donations are distributed. This committee, he added, has been set up for this sole purpose and it will end its operations once its task has been completed.

Concord to make sixth flight to the country

By Maha Addani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Concord will roar through the skies of Jordan for the sixth time Sunday, bringing 100 British tourists to the country in a trip organised by the British Goodwood Travel company.

Since the plane had previously landed in Jordan, all the arrangements for the landing of the fastest passenger plane in the world have already been made at Queen Alia International Airport, Goodwood Travel director Jan Knott has said.

Concord "is not very different from other aircraft when it comes to landing," Mr. Knott said. The plane needs specific engineering backup and that is already available in Jordan, he said.

The flight from England to Jordan is expected to take four hours, cutting the time regular flights need to make the trip by a little over an hour, said Mr. Knott.

The Concord will not fly supersonic all the way from England to Jordan because it can only do so over sea, Mr. Knott said. "Because Concord needs to be over a stretch of sea, for example, to fly supersonic, it often has to re-route" thus making the flight longer. In some cases, he said, Concord can take up to 90 minutes longer than other subsonic scheduled flights.

Concord flights to Jordan had

been halted since 1990, but Mr. Knott hopes the flight would continue as an annual event.

"After the outbreak of the Gulf crisis, we did not know whether we would ever come back with Concord to Jordan. But because it proved very popular in the past and since we already have requests for next year, it seems like we will continue our annual trip," he said, noting that a one-way ticket for this chartered flight this year cost \$1,500.

In addition to the 100 passengers, who will take the Concord flight to Jordan, another 100 British tourists who arrived here earlier will leave the country aboard the plane.

Mr. Knott said Concord's financial performance has greatly improved.

"Today (Concord) is doing a great deal better, going to 50 destinations and having 60 chartered flights scheduled for this year," he said.

Because of the enormous costs of developing an aircraft like Concord, Mr. Knott said that it is highly unlikely that another supersonic plane will be developed this century.

"The British and French governments wrote off the majority of the development costs for Concord and left it to British Airways and Air France to run Concord as a business flying to and from the United States," he said.

Parliament next session could be delayed

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The opening of the 1992-1993 regular session of Parliament could be delayed for two months, but no official decision has been taken yet, informed officials said Friday.

"In all probability, the session would be postponed by two months, but the decision has to be taken by His Majesty the King upon the recommendation of the prime minister," said a senior official, noting that both the king and Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shakar are out of the country.

According to the Constitution, the regular annual session of Parliament opens on the first working day of October with a speech from the Throne by the King, but the King is also empowered to delay the opening for up to 60 days.

Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Atif Btoush said they were not aware of any decision to delay the opening of Parliament but noted the constitutional provision which allows postponement.

Analysts see several reasons for the possible postponement.

These include:

— The King, who is expected home this week after recuperating from surgery, might need some more rest before fully resuming his duties.

— The government hopes that the Arab-Israeli peace process would make tangible progress during the period of postponement and that this could be used to dilute criticism from parliamentarians who oppose the peace process.

— The government would like to avert attacks from the House floor over the detention of two deputies, Laith Shbeilat and Yacoub Qarash, before the judicial process completes its course.

Senior officials have said that the "cases" involving Mr. Shbeilat and Sheikh Qarash were no longer in the hands of the executive authority and referred all inquiries to the judiciary.

"But we would definitely like to see the cases completed either way as soon as possible," said a cabinet minister. "The law has to take its course and it is up to the State Security Court to make the appropriate decisions. We hope it will not be a drawn-out process," he said.

The Constitution offers immunity to Parliament members against arrest and prosecution

when the legislative authority is in session.

"No senator (member of the Upper House) or deputy may be detained or tried during the currency of the sessions of the National Assembly unless the House to which he belongs decides by an absolute majority that there is sufficient reason for his detention or trial unless he was arrested flagrante delicto," says Article 86, item (i) of the Constitution. "In the event of his arrest in this manner, the House to which he belongs, shall be notified immediately."

In the cases of Mr. Shbeilat and Sheikh Qarash, who were arrested after Parliament took a recess after an extraordinary session ended on Aug. 26, item (ii) of Article 86 applies. It says: "If a member is detained for any reason while the National Assembly is not sitting, the prime minister shall notify the Senate or the Chamber of Deputies, when it reassembles, of the proceedings taken against him, coupled with the necessary explanation."

Regardless of its arguments and disclaimers, the government is expected to come under heavy criticism for the detention of the deputies and pressure for their release. Many members of Parliament have already started a cam-

paign to free the two lawmakers, whose cases are expected to go to court sometime this week.

Any postponement of the Parliament session, the last regular session before the current term of the elected Lower House expires, will also result in delaying the final decisions on several pieces of key legislation.

These include dozens of temporary laws, some of them dating back to 1974, which have to be debated and finalised by the House. Some of the key issues facing the House now include a draft law on press and publications, a report of the Public Freedoms Committee and administrative reforms.

The Lower House debated and passed with amendments the bulk of the provisions of the 59-article law on press and publications during its extraordinary session. The rest of the draft legislation was expected to be approved in a few sittings of the House during the regular session before the law was sent to the Upper House.

However, the delay in the debate of the law is seen to favour several dozens of Jordanian journalists who have launched a campaign against it, and are lobbying parliamentarians with a view to changing some of its provisions.

Monetary changes to ensure stability

AMMAN (Petra) — Governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi has said that monetary stability is the criteria against which the success of the monetary policy is measured.

In a statement to a newsbulletin issued by the business community in Jordan, Dr. Nabulsi said the national monetary policy seeks to ensure the effective management of the monetary and financial sector in the Jordanian economy and to direct it in a manner that will contribute positively to serving the higher economic interests

of the country. He pointed out that the national policy seeks to achieve a genuine growth in the Gross National Product (GNP) to enable it to match or even exceed the natural population growth.

The monetary policy focuses on providing the requirements of monetary stability, which in turn maintains the purchasing power of the local currency and ensures its convertibility to foreign currencies at a stable exchange rate, Dr. Nabulsi said. He said the monetary policy has changed since 1989, in order to cope with

the requirements of competition and strengthening the free market forces. He said that since 1989, the CBJ had adopted a number of measures aimed at ensuring monetary stability, absorbing surplus liquidity with the banking sector and strengthening the balance of payment.

He said the CBJ imposed a ceiling on credit facilities, raised the rediscount rate gradually to 8.5 per cent and the obligatory cash reserve to 11 per cent and then to 13 per cent on all deposits in Jordanian dinar.

Pharmaceutical industry reports increased local, foreign sales

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan last year exported \$70 million worth of pharmaceutical products to Arab and foreign countries, becoming one of leading Arab states exporting medicine to the outside world, according to managing director of pharmaceutical firms.

With the increase in pharmaceutical sales, the medicine industry has assumed third place among Jordanian exports after phosphates and chemical fertilisers, said these managers.

"What Jordanian pharmaceutical firms are producing at present accounts for 40 per cent of the local market's consumption, thanks to the facilities offered this industry by the government which exempts the raw materials from customs duty, and

the banks which provide export facilities," said Mr. Samih Darwazah, managing director of Dar Al Hikma Pharmaceutical Company.

Ever since its establishment in 1965, the Jordanian pharmaceutical industry has been growing and expanding and the country now has five major pharmaceutical companies producing a wide range of medicines, said Mr. Darwazah.

These companies, he said, have succeeded in marketing their products in foreign countries, including the United States, through personal field visits to hospitals and ministries and various other institutions and through media campaigns here and abroad.

He said that the five companies, two of which produce

veterinary medicine together employ 2200 workers.

According to Mr. Mohammad Fitani, managing director of Dar Al Dawaa Company, the local companies aim to raise their share of local market to 60 per cent.

He said, the five companies are improving the quality of their products and opening new markets abroad.

Mr. Fitani said Jordanian pharmaceutical products are meeting increasing competition abroad but are of "excellent quality and can withstand the competition."

He said the five companies are selling their products at home at half the price of similar products imported from other countries.

Returnees receive professional training

AMMAN (Petra) — The Vocational Training Corporation (VTC), has until the end of 1991 turned out 64,082 skilled workers for the labour markets in Jordan and the Arab World, according to VTC Director Ahmad Atwan.

VTC centres around the country are currently offering training to 17,511 students in trades most needed for the local labour market, Dr. Atwan said in an address at a ceremony for the graduation of a new batch of trainees who have completed a course organised by the Young Women Christian Association (YWCA) in cooperation with the VTC, which was established in 1977.

The training programme benefited returnees from the Gulf states who are being helped to find jobs, according to YWCA officials.

The VTC has been trying to meet the local market needs of trained and skilled workers since the 1970s, but it is now facing an additional task with the return of thousands of people from the Gulf following the Gulf crisis, said Dr. Atwan.

"To achieve this purpose," the VTC has been expanding its existing centres and opening others for males and females and training them in trades much needed by the local labour markets," he said.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King receives British foreign secretary

LONDON (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday received in his residence here British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, who congratulated the King on his successful surgery. The King and Mr. Hurd exchanged views on the latest developments in the Middle East peace process and other issues on the regional and international arenas.

Regent congratulates sports team

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Thursday sent a cable to members of the Jordanian sports team taking part in the 7th Arab Sports Tournament, held in Syria, congratulating them on their achievements. Prince Hassan praised the performance of Jordanian teams and the high sport morale they have been demonstrating.

Princess Nafi'a opens art exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — On behalf of Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein, Princess Nafi'a Bint Ali Thursday opened an art exhibition by the Iraqi Artist Ali Al Mimar at Alia Art Gallery. On display at the week-long exhibition are 30 oil paintings, depicting the effects of the Gulf war on Iraq. Some of the plates depict aspects of the Iraqi life, Iraqi nature and original Arab horses, which the artist used to demonstrate "Iraqi pride and courage."

Ambassador to Austria presents credentials

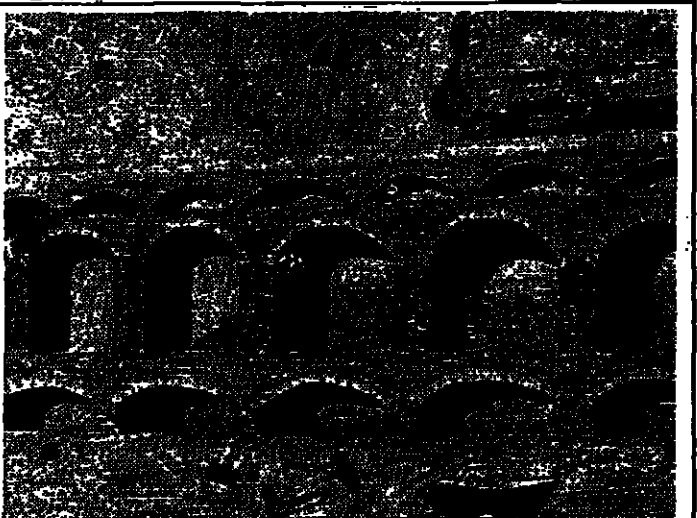
VIENNA (Petra) — Jordan's new ambassador to Austria Nabil Al Talhouni, Thursday presented his credentials to Austrian President Thomas Cistle. President Cistle said the opening of a Jordanian embassy in Austria was a major step towards enhancing bilateral relations between the two countries. He congratulated the ambassador on the recovery of His Majesty King Hussein.

New committee to examine water policies

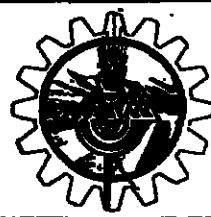
AMMAN (Petra) — The Minister of Water and Irrigation is holding a specialised workshop to discuss the possibility of creating a strategy and planning unit at the ministry to examine water policies and strategies in Jordan. The unit, which is expected to take office by the end of 1993, will also reevaluate the water situation in Jordan and draw up a major, flexible water plan capable of coping with the developments the country is witnessing as a result of population increase and the expansion of buildings and construction. The workshop is held in cooperation with the German government.



AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE FOR JORDANIAN CHILDREN: Two Jordanian children won Awards of Excellence in a world drawing competition, organised by Mitsui Real Estate Sales Company of Japan. The organisers have received 46,378 drawings for the Sixth "I Draw My Dream Home Competition," announced early this year. Taking part in the competition were children from 51 countries all over the world. Seven Jordanian children took part



in the contest. The winners were 12-year-old Rana Jalal Al Azzeel, from Kamaleh Secondary Girls School in Swelch for her painting, "I Dream of Having a Rural House Surrounded by Trees On All Sides Because Trees Help Clean the Air and Prevent Deforestation" (left) and 14-year-old Said Kayyash from Amman for his drawing, "A Bridge Over a River in the Country Area of Jordan."



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ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF COOLING TOWERS PLANT REFINERY WATER SUPPLY PROJECT CONTRACT NO. APC/42-B/91

The Arab Potash Company Limited (A.P.C) plans to implement a refinery water supply scheme to provide supplies of Brackish water to enlarge the existing supplies and secure potash production expansion water demand.

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Telex No.: 21689 Potash Jo.

Tel. No. 665116 or 03-377121/3-site.

The closing date for submission of tender documents will be 12:00 noon, October 15, 1992

A.Y. Ensour
Managing Director
The Arab Potash Co. Ltd.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

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Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

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Postures and realities

THE SYRIAN-Israeli peace talks are picking up momentum in the wake of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's acceptance of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 as applicable to the Golan Heights and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad confirming that his country seeks peace with Israel and that that objective could be within reach. In fact the centre of gravity of the ongoing Arab-Israeli peace negotiations is shifting in a remarkable and dramatic way to the Israeli-Syrian talks with each party hurriedly jockeying for the most propitious negotiating positions after the "ice" between them seems to have been broken in a remarkable way. Of course the world has not heard the last word from either side on the prospects of peace between them and there is probably a lot more that can be expected to develop in that direction in the course of the following weeks.

So far, Rabin's government is making audible noise about accepting to trade some territory of the Golan Heights in return for a full comprehensive peace with Damascus. Syria in return is making equally interesting noise about its high expectations for peace but insisting that it seeks to apply its jurisdiction over the entire Syrian Heights. Of course Israel's offer to trade part of Syrian territory for full peace is nothing but a negotiating posture that can be expected to evolve and change as the peace dialogue between the two sides pick up additional momentum along the way. This talk has attracted much attention of the world. What has not drawn much attention, however, is Israel's insinuation that its negotiations with Syria could be divorced from the other bilateral talks affecting the Palestinians, Jordan and Lebanon. This talk that Syrian-Israeli negotiations be disengaged from the other ongoing bilateral parleys with the remaining Arab parties is turning out to be a critical feature in the Syrian-Israeli discussions. Where a probable success on the Syrian-Israeli level of peace talks would leave the other Arab parties in an open question for those who are concerned about the process.

If the Palestinian and Jordanian sides end up being left out in the cold in the midst and wake of some spectacular advance in Syrian-Israeli negotiations, then there would be an entirely new ball game in the Middle East with far-reaching implications and results for all the countries of the region. It is perhaps premature to make final judgements about where the negotiating parties are heading or not heading but a stop for reflection and reassessment is certainly in order here.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE ISRAELI media has been publishing what it said was the situation to be at the coming session of talks with the Arabs at the Washington meetings, noting that these talks will soon tackle matters of substance rather than form, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. The paper said the Israeli media has been calling on the Arabs to embark on serious matters in order to reach a settlement with Israel and claiming that the Arabs had so far aborted any attempts to reach such settlement. It is to be noted here that it was the Arabs who have been insisting on delivering into substance and it has been Israel which aborted agreement even on the agenda of the talks, the paper pointed out. It said that Israel has not yet declared its position with regard to the U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, and its leaders have not yet expressed willingness to recognise the Palestinian people's right in their homeland. What matters here, the paper added, is not mere talk, but rather practical steps to reach a settlement based on justice, in implementation of those resolutions which ensure Israel's withdrawal, security for all countries in the region and an exchange of land for peace. The Israelis are trying to give their own interpretation of these resolutions in an attempt to escape implementing them, while the Arabs have been seeking their full implementation and for the Palestinians to regain their rights and their lands, the paper continued. Only when Israel embarks on practical steps to meet the Arabs halfway at the negotiating table, said the paper, can a settlement be achieved, therefore, all Israeli media campaigns on serve no one any good.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily discussed the futility of the Non-Aligned Movement, noting that the movement members have done nothing to support the rights of the developing nations in the face of the super power onslaughts. Fakhr Kavar said that the idea of non-alignment, which came into being in 1955, was attractive then because it was the brainchild of three Asian, African and European nations that felt something ought to be done in the face of the aggressive stands of Moscow and Washington and to ensure the rights of the poor and weaker nations of the world. The writer said that theoretically at least, the idea was attractive and so it drew the developing nations' attention and helped form the bloc that sought to defuse world tensions and protect Third World nations' interests. But unfortunately, this bloc did little to achieve its goals despite its numerous member states, he added. Now that the communist bloc exists so more and the United States is dominating the world, what can the Non-Aligned Movement do? asked Kavar. He said that NAM can do one of two things: Confront the United States in the face of its continued bullying of Third World nations or dissolve itself as there is no more use for its existence. It is most regrettable, said the writer, to see and hear many of this movement's leaders taking a hostile stand towards the movement members like Iraq, Palestine and Somalia and siding, with the Western nations in their onslaught on the Third World.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Bush's Mideast policy reflects failure at home

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

IN THE past week, the Jordanian press gave prominence to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, the outcome of the non-aligned summit in Indonesia and a host of local topics.

By declaring his total rejection of the idea of creating an independent Palestinian state, the U.S. president has posed a great challenge to the Arabs and laid one more obstacle in the attainment of a just and durable peace in the Middle East, said Sawt Al Shaab daily.

It seems that Mr. Bush, who has lost a great deal of his popularity to his opponent Bill Clinton, in the race to the White House, has decided to win the Jewish votes at any cost, even at the expense of his country's national interests, the paper said.

Referring to Mr. Bush's statement before the general convention of Jewish organisations, the paper said that the U.S. president is adopting a stand which can cause damage to the cause of peace and, at the same time, he is condoning Israel's atrocities in the occupied lands and its procrastinating of the peace negotiations. Al Dustour daily echoed this view and said that Mr. Bush is trying to show favour to world Zionism in a desperate attempt to win Jewish votes after having discovered that he stands little chance of retaining the White House for another four years.

The paper said that Mr. Bush is offering promises and supporting his words with actions to prove to the Jews that he is sincere in supporting their cause at the expense of the Arabs and the current peace process.

It seems that Mr. Bush's future is firmly linked to the peace process going on in Washington and, therefore, the American president is trying to appease the Jews and pressure the Arabs into reaching an agreement at any cost, said Salameh Elkour, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab.

The writer said that at the same time Mr. Bush is trying to make up for his losses on the domestic front by trying to win credibility through confronting Iraq.

Ibrahim Al Absi, a columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily, reflected on an Egyptian working paper submitted to a meeting grouping the Gulf states and Egypt and Syria. This working paper is a very dangerous thing to the Arabs in general and the

Arab countries confronting Israel in particular, said the writer.

He said that the dangerous thing about this paper is that it calls for the formation of a rapid deployment force from the concerned countries and the creation of some form of loose unity among them, not linked to the other Arab countries which means causing further split among Arab states.

His colleague, Mahmoud Rimawi, said that in light of the current affairs in the Arab World, no one can expect a summit conference among Arab leaders to try to patch up differences and chart a new formula for reestablishing solidarity among the Arab countries.

Writing in Al Ra'i daily, Rimawi said that despite the calls on the Arab leaders to convene a summit meeting, the chance does not exist for such a parley at the highest level in view of the deep differences and the continued trend among Arab regimes to deepen the rift among them.

Referring to the outcome of the non-aligned summit in Jakarta, columnist Mohammad Kawash said that most of the movement members proved to be either biased towards the United States and its allies or bribed by the West to abort any move to support Iraq and the other Third World nations.

The writer said that by refusing to allow the Iraqis to have access to food and medicine the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) has proved its futility in dealing with any world issues.

His views were supported by Tawfiq Al Basha in Sawt Al Shaab daily. The columnist said that the NAM has proved incapable of sustaining a balanced policy towards world issues and proved unable to agree on adopting the minimum level of cooperation towards resolving regional crisis.

The writer said that the summit in Jakarta has failed to deal with such issues as the threats against Iraq, the war in Yugoslavia and the situation in Africa due to U.S. control over most of the movement's members.

He said that the Non-Aligned Movement was totally biased against its own people and has succumbed to the U.S. blackmail and pressure.

Fakhr Kavar, a columnist in Al Ra'i, turned his attention to the plight of Jordanian sta-

dents who cannot enter the four Jordanian state universities.

Noting that tawjihi students who completed commercial courses at school find it hard to enter the universities which give priority to other students with higher grades.

The writer said that tawjihi students who graduated from the commercial stream can by no means enter university to continue their studies, unless they acquire very high grades, and they cannot enter other fields except commerce.

He said that the same can apply to students who took school courses in nursing or hotel management, etc. He called on the government to open the way for these students to pursue their higher education.

Tackling the same topic, Taber Al Udwan in Al Dustour said that out of 76,000 students who sat for the tawjihi examinations half of the number has passed and only half of the number of successful students obtained 65 per cent grades; of these only 10,000 are now being allowed to enrol at the state universities.

The writer said it is painful to see a large number of students turned away from the universities and is more painful to see even those who obtained between 90 and 95 per cent average not offered the chance to choose their specialisations and courses.

Mohammad Ibrahim Daoud, a columnist in Al Dustour, tackled the agriculture issue in Jordan criticising the Ministry of Agriculture for its unstable policies.

It is surprising, he said, to see the ministry advocating once again the cropping pattern in agriculture after cancelling this policy for some time.

The writer said that the ministry has not only failed to help the farmers market their products, it has proved incapable to persuade the farmers to adopt a comprehensive policy in producing eggplants and tomatoes, the main vegetable crops in the Jordan Valley.

Instead of returning to the agricultural cropping pattern system, the writer said, the ministry should have dealt with the blunders that were committed in the country's agricultural policies. He said, for instance, that farmers should be encouraged to produce new types of crops for which there is always a market abroad.

LETTERS

Objectionable pseudo-objectivity

To the Editor:

A peculiar phenomenon in the modern world seems to be that people with academic degrees often take those very degrees as a licence to dispense with thought. Indeed, Rami G. Khouri's article, "Jordan's Opportunity: Where history and elegance coincide" (Jordan Times, September 8, 1992), seems to have found the most intelligent way possible to say the most insane things imaginable. It does this, moreover, with a veneer of pseudo-objectivity which by implication contrasts with the putative sentimentality of the Jordanian people.

Let us take a concrete example. (Referring to his own suggestion that His Majesty should abdicate) Rami Khouri says: "He could be the first modern Arab political leader to demonstrate that his expressed faith in God, in his people, in his family and in the institutions of his country and his culture is a reality that — like Arab and Jordanian society — is powerful, transcendent and meaningful."

In this one sentence, Rami Khouri has managed to suggest that no modern Arab leader has yet demonstrated his or her expressed faith in God, in his or her people, family, etc. etc. and to be more precise — that His Majesty himself has not yet done so — and that in the first place, faith in God as such is something which needs to be demonstrated to the public. Moreover, it is a logical contradiction that faith should be at once both transcendent and demonstrable, for transcendence is by nature super-tangible.

Furthermore, to get to the heart of the matter now, Rami Khouri seems, whilst holding out the carrot of his potential esteem, to be implying in this sentence, as in the general gist of the essay as a whole, that it would be good for both the King and the country, if His Majesty were to abdicate. This is precisely what makes the essay so objectionable.

It takes no certified genius to note that His Majesty King Hussein is objectively a unique historical figure. If there have been "master-politicians", who have ruled, if there have been saintly men and women who have ruled, and finally if there have been saintly "master-politicians" who have ruled, there has never been a man in history who on top of these qualities has taken his country from the pre-industrial revolution phase to the post-microchip era, with so little resources at his disposal, and with, to boot, never having been in the least bit heavy-handed when the circumstances have not absolutely necessitated it. Would it really be better for Jordan, for whom he has been for forty years the effective sine qua non, to do without him, before God decrees that this should be the case? This is like saying one should not eat for fear of famine!

As for His Majesty himself, though no doubt his life is not without toil, it suffices to say that it has been his lot to be king and that each person

accepts his destiny from God. Another odious part of the essay is the use of the term "successor" as if there had never been such a person as His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, to say nothing of the fact that he has, Ma Sha'Allah, been Crown Prince for twenty-five years, and that, as the Gulf war brought out very well, he is a major world statesman and thinker in his own right. By never mentioning him, the article sounds as if nobody knows who this enigmatic "designated successor" to His Majesty is!

As for the "cancerous cells" mentioned by Rami Khouri, it is, Walhamdu Lillah, quite simply wrong, as we all know, to refer to them as being "malignant", to say nothing of it being completely irresponsible on Rami Khouri's part to do so (after himself criticising the inaccuracy of the Jordanian press), especially in that the Jordan Times is the Jordanian paper that is most read outside the country in important circles.

Finally, to go back to the title, "Where history and elegance coincide", one might just note that true elegance is not simply a matter of donning a papillon or a necktie and saying putatively "daring" things, but rather of saying and doing the right thing at the right time. If Rami Khouri proposes in future to continue to talk about elegance, he should have a better sense of proportion than, for example, to compare His Majesty with the Shah, Numeiri and Barre — without implying anything negative about the aforesaid gentlemen.

In conclusion, the article should not have implied that His Majesty should abdicate; should not have completely ignored the Crown Prince; should have been medically accurate; and should have more sensitively taken into consideration the legitimate and genuine feelings of the Jordanian people at this time, starting with His Majesty and his family. The difference between "sentiment" and "sentimentalism" is that sentiment corresponds to that which is beautiful and true, whereas sentimentalism is a mood which is unwarranted by the real worth of its object. The fact that one is an intellectual does not entitle one to a tone which pooh-poohs the former, without discerning it clearly from the latter.

A post script is in order to say the following: The goal here has been to denounce Rami Khouri's article and not Rami Khouri, who doubtless meant well and who, as everyone knows, did an unforgettable service to Jordan during the Gulf war through his writings and interviews, and who also, finally is regarded as one of the country's leading intellectuals. If we have had occasion to be personal, then this was invited a priori by Rami Khouri's concerning himself with His Majesty's person — even while His Majesty was still con-valescing.

Alia Al Hussein,
Amman.

Wrong line

To the Editor:

Although this is an inopportune time, and we should be congratulating His Majesty on his recovery instead of querrying the issue of succession, I am truly baffled by at least one of the points raised in Mr. Khouri's article and feel compelled to querry it.

Did His Majesty, may God grant him a very long and healthy life, not name his successors? Was there not a Royal decree naming His Royal

Highness Prince Hassan and thereafter His Royal Highness Prince Ali as the successors?

Could it be that Mr. Khouri is confusing the issue of the succession to Mr. Arafat, that arose after the aircraft accident, with that of the line of succession in Jordan?

Aysar Alkrawi,
P.O. Box 35095,
Amman.

Responsible comments?

To the Editor:

I refer to the letter to the editor written by Dr. Maan Abu Nowar (Jordan Times, Sept. 10-11), and although I know that each person is entitled to his opinion, I cannot but make the following comments:

- 1) I fail to see the contradiction between the article in question and "Jordanian, Arab and Muslim customs and traditions," unless of course the essence of the article has been misunderstood.
- 2) Forgive my ignorance but I also do not see the connection between Mr. Khouri and the "young bull who saw red lights in a China shop." As far as I know, a bull when seeing red lights would wreck anything in its path, and anyone who ever read his articles or seen him on TV knows very well that, unlike many in this country, his integrity and motives cannot be questioned and that he is neither a reckless and destructive person, nor an adept of the "sensational."

Mama Kassab,
P.O. Box 925624,
Amman.

Syria says no unilateral accord

(Continued from page 1)

rise parts of the Golan, he praised Mr. Assad's tone.

"I have no doubt there has been significant change, at least in the content of words. The fact Syrian President Assad talks before the media to a Druze delegation from Israel indicates a change..." Mr. Rabin said.

He said Syria's position was still short of Israeli terms but it had to be seriously examined in the search for peace.

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"I have no doubt there has been significant change, at least in the content of words. The fact Syrian President Assad talks before the media to a Druze delegation from Israel indicates a change..." Mr. Rabin said.

He said Syria's position was still short of Israeli terms but it had to be seriously examined in the search for peace.

Israel was committed to negotiations based on U.N. Security Council resolutions that call for exchanging occupied land for peace, Mr. Rabin said, but Syria had to first show readiness to make peace with the Jewish state.

"For the time-being Syria talks of a peace accord that does not have components of normalisation. It does not have open borders, diplomatic relations and embassies," Mr. Rabin said.

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Somalia

(Continued from page 1)
contract dispute between two rival Somali trucking firms parked its trucks on the Belet Huen airstrip, said a spokeswoman for the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The spokeswoman, who asked that she not be identified further, said the U.S. aircraft to Belet Huen was expected to resume Saturday. Flights of food to the town of Baidoa and one to northeastern Kenya had been scheduled Friday, she said.

Brigadier-General Imtiaz Shaheen of Pakistan said he had learnt Friday morning that the Pakistani troops would now arrive on Tuesday instead of Saturday.

"The men are all ready over there (in Pakistan)," he said,

"But it all depends on when the U.S. planes are made available." The United States offered to provide aircraft to bring in a total of 500 troops to protect relief supplies and convoys from marauding looters who have hampered efforts to feed the Somalis.

A vanguard force of 60 men was due in Saturday and the rest by Sept. 25, but the unit is unlikely to be patrolling the streets of

Mogadishu until the first week in October.

Gen. Shaheen told reporters their mission was very delicate and sensitive. "This place is bad news," he said of the mean streets of Mogadishu, patrolled by gunmen who are the only law and order.

He said it would take time to brief and train the force for Mogadishu's unique brand of lawlessness.

"These are not 500 bananas you are talking about that you pick up in the supermarket and put in your basket and take somewhere else," the general explained. "They're not going to come in like Rambo with guns blazing."

Unexplained gunfire is an hourly occurrence in Mogadishu, where converted jeeps with rag-tag gunmen and mounted machineguns patrol the streets.

Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)
Beilin told reporters he could discuss Arab-Israeli regional peace talks. These cover areas of mutual interest, including water, free trade, environment, Palestinian refugees and arms control.

The Israeli officials met with Osama Al Baz, President Hosni Mubarak's political advisor. He is

also scheduled to meet Foreign Minister Amr Mousa Saturday. Before leaving Israel, Mr. Beilin said he will try to convince the Egyptians to take a more intensive and consistent attitude to the peace process.

"Today they are being very careful. They make it a condition that there should be progress in the bilateral talks before they take an active position (in the

regional talks)." Mr. Beilin said the Israeli delegation to bilateral peace talks scheduled to resume in Washington Monday would be carrying responses to Syrian and Palestinian draft proposals for peace.

"The current Israeli government is committed to the peace process and recognises resolutions 242 and 338," Mr. Beilin said.

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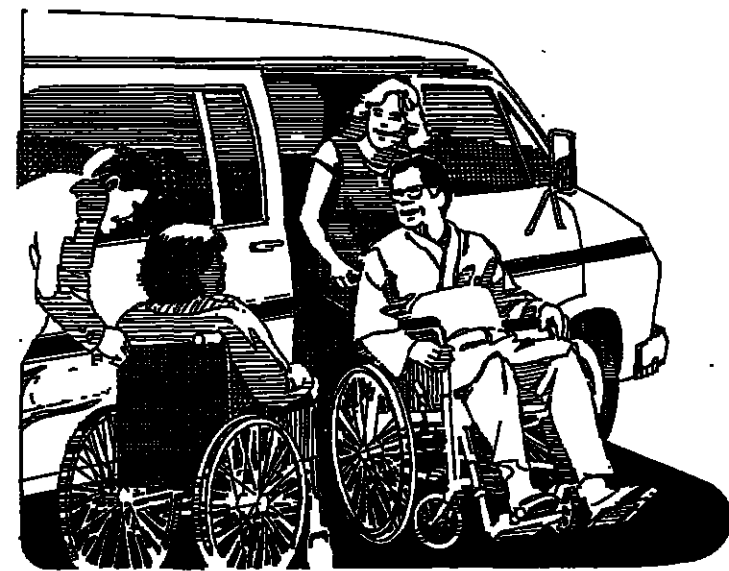
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Attorney-general promises fair trial

(Continued from page 1)
out by the prosecutor general of the State Security Court in a way that casts doubt on the correctness of these procedures and since your correspondent did not ask for any comments on these statements before publishing them as journalistic tradition requires, I thought it is necessary that I should respond to these statements by the following remarks, which I would be grateful if you would kindly publish in the same place of your respected newspaper, where the story in question appeared.

First: Mr. Ibrahim Bakr, the attorney of Mr. Shbeilat, is quoted as saying that the investigation session that was scheduled on Tuesday, Sept. 8 has been postponed because the prosecutor general refused to allow a private meeting between Mr. Bakr and his client. Clause 1 of Article 6 of Law No. 9 of 1961 dealing with the "Procedures of Penal Trials" stipulates that "the prosecutor general is authorised to bar contact with the accused person in custody for a renewable period of 3 days." Clause 2 of the same article stipulates that "the provision of contact does not apply to the attorney of the accused who is entitled to contact him at any time without the presence of an interpreter, unless the prosecutor general decides otherwise."

In the light of the above article, it becomes clear that the decision of the prosecutor general to bar a 3-to-face private meeting between the accused and his attorney is within his jurisdiction and does not constitute any contravention of the law. Therefore the statement attributed to Mr. Ibrahim Bakr in this particular case has no legal basis.

Second: The story quotes the attorneys of Mr. Shbeilat as saying that the prosecutor general has the authority to extend the period of contact with the accused (not for his lawyer) only once for three days, and after the elapse of that day, he is obliged to release the accused on bail. The right of bail according to this theory was denied Mr. Shbeilat. As previously mentioned, Clause 1 of Article 66 of the law entitles the prosecutor general to renew the "no contact" asse indefinitely, and not only for ten days" as is claimed. As regards the release of the used persons on bail, Clause 1

of Article 123 of the above-mentioned law stipulates that "no accused person will be released on bail, if he is charged with, or sentenced in a criminal case which is punishable by death sentence or life imprisonment."

Clause 2 of the same article stipulates that "bail cannot be granted to anybody charged in a criminal offence." Therefore, the decision of the prosecutor general to deny release on bail to the accused depends on the classification of their offences as crimes not covered by the right of bail, and his decision falls, again, within his jurisdiction as defined by the law.

Third: When the published story moves to the case of accused Mr. Yacoub Qarash, it quotes his attorney, Mr. Jamal Dmour, as saying that the prosecutor general refused to give him access to the files of the investigations conducted with the accused persons in Mr. Qarash's case, and to the basis of the charges leveled against his client. Subsequently, the lawyers of Mr. Qarash advised him not to give any statements unless his lawyers are allowed to see the investigations' files. This, I must say, is a rather strange and extraordinary request by the lawyers of Mr. Qarash.

The distinguished lawyers know very well the established and respected legal principle which dictates "the confidentiality of investigations and the publicness of trials." This means that accessibility to investigation files which constitute the major component of the charge can only be made when the investigations are completed and the case is referred to the court. Consequently, the statement attributed to Mr. Dmour to the effect that his inability to see these files prevents the defence from "doing its work properly" has no legal justification.

In conclusion, I hope with this clarification, I have established the fact that all the procedures taken in this case, are in accordance with the law, which we have all sworn to respect and comply with. And, since the openness of the trial will reveal all the facts and the documents pertaining to this case for all to see and examine, there should be no doubt that the prosecutor general has been, and will always be, keen to strictly abide by the law — text and spirit.

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Chang reaches U.S. Open semis

NEW YORK (R) — Defending champion Stefan Edberg was locked in a fifth-set duel with three-time winner Ivan Lendl when rain suspended play leaving the last semifinals berth in the U.S. Open.

The Swede led 6-3 6-3 3-6 5-7 2-1 with Lendl about to serve the fourth game when play was called. The match will be resumed following the men's doubles final Friday, which begins the programme on the stadium court at 11 a.m. (1500 GMT).

The winner of the Edberg-Lendl clash will advance to a semifinals match against American Michael Chang, who outlasted gritty South African Wayne Ferreira in five sets that took four hours, 17 minutes to play.

Edberg seemed safely on course to book his trip to the final four on Thursday after winning the first two sets against the ninth-seeded Lendl, but the 32-year-old former world number one refused to quit and fought off four match points in the 10th game of the fourth set.

Lendl, trailing 0-40 and 4-5 on his serve, scrambled back to reach deuce, saved another match point with a service winner and then won the game with

another sizzling service to Edberg's backhand.

Edberg, who looked invincible in the early going, struck a backhand volley wide as Lendl broke him at 30 in the next game to lead 6-5.

Rain caused a one-hour, 10 minute delay before Lendl returned to the court and held serve to send the match to a fifth set.

The fifth set went according to serve until rain returned after 16 minutes of action and prompted the suspension until Friday.

The fourth-seeded Chang, the 1989 French Open champion, wore down the freckle-faced Ferreira, who was hampered by a strained thigh muscle, 7-5 2-6 6-3 6-7 6-1 in their match, full of spectacular retrievals and rousing winners.

They went at it tooth and nail for the right to meet the winner of the Edberg-Lendl clash.

Saturday, as usual, will feature the women's final sandwiched between the two men's semifinals. World number one Jim Courier and 1990 champion Pete Sampras already have booked a date in the other men's semifinal.

The match between Ferreira and Chang provided a refreshing contrast of different styles and made for engrossing entertain-

ment.

Ferreira, who burst onto the scene this year when he reached the semifinals or paved the way to the net where he could use his impressive volleying to advantage.

Chang was his exasperating best from the baseline, foiling beautifully angled, would-be winners by making miraculous retrievals and keeping points alive long enough to benefit from opponent's mistakes.

They fought on even terms with Chang carving out a hard-fought 2-1 lead in sets.

Early in the fourth set the match turned against Ferreira, even as he was breaking Chang for a 2-0 lead.

The 12th-seeded Ferreira broke through at love for his fourth-set lead but after finishing off the American with an overhead winner, Ferreira bent over in pain, clutching his leg.

Chang broke back immediately for 2-1 and a trainer visited Ferreira during the changeover. At the next changeover, the South African had ice applied to his thigh and then had it wrapped in a bandage.

But Ferreira fought on, grimacing with pain when stretched too far, and forced a tie-break in a

brave performance by the South African whose rank has gone from 50 to 11 this year.

Forcing a tie-break seemed heroic enough under the circumstances, but Ferreira went one better by winning the tie-break 7-4 on a double fault by Chang.

That was Ferreira's last hurrah, however, and Chang broke the South African in the second and sixth games, and then ended the match when Ferreira mis-hit a forehand that flew away high into the stands.

The victory brought great satisfaction to Chang, who after becoming the youngest player to win the French Open at age 17 had never again gone so far as the semifinals of a Grand Slam.

This year was particularly discouraging in the big events, as Chang — youngest player to win the French Open at 17 — lost in the fourth round at both the Australian and French Opens and was dumped in the first round at Wimbledon.

Meanwhile, the women at the 1992 U.S. Open have gone to great lengths to shed their label of predictability and now it is up to Mary Joe Fernandez to finish the job.

In the semifinals the seventh-seeded Fernandez takes on world number one Monica Seles, the only player expected to reach the final four who actually got that far.

In the other semifinal Arantxa Sanchez Vicario faces Manuela Maleeva-Frangiére, the fifth and ninth-seeded survivors of the upset-ravaged women's competition.

In recent years at the major tournaments the men's competition has been volatile, while the women were placid and predictable, teetering on the edge of downright boring as they adhered almost religiously to expected form.

More often than not, all or nearly all of the top eight rolled into the quarter-finals and on the final Saturday either Steffi Graf or Monica Seles was left standing.

At Wimbledon Graf beat Seles, at the French Seles beat Graf. The two have scooped up the last seven Grand Slam titles and 11 of the last 13.

Sprinter Badwan powers Morocco at Arab Games

DAMASCUS (R) — Sprint star Nazha Badwan clinched her ranking as star athlete of the Arab Games with two more gold medals Friday and powered Morocco's tiny team into fourth place in the medals race.

Badwan capped a glittering performance on the last day of athletics competition at the port of Latakia with wins in the 200 metres and 4x400 relay — bringing her personal tally to an unmatched seven golds.

The wins lifted the north African country's tiny team of 24 athletes and administrative staff, the smallest at the games, to 28 medals — 15 gold, 7 silver, 6 bronze.

Syria, whose 400-strong team is the biggest at the games, easily held on to the lead with 63 medals — 27 gold, 19 silver and 17 bronze.

Algeria was second with 16 gold, 10 silver and 12 bronze, followed by Egypt with 15 gold, 15 silver and 16 bronze.

Syria's wrestlers had another field day, winning seven of the 10 freestyle gold medals to add to the six they won in Greco-Roman wrestling.

In athletics, Badwan won the women's 200 metres gold in 24.26 seconds. Egypt's Karina Maskeen took the silver in 24.39 seconds and the bronze went to Nadia Abdou of Algeria in 24.67.

She also led Morocco to victory in the women's 4x400 relay in three minutes, 45.47 seconds. Algeria came second in 3:56.44 followed by Jordan in 4:01.28.

Badwan's other golds were in the 100 metres, 100 metres hurdles, 400 metres, 400 metres hurdles and 4x100 relay.

Team-mate Najat Wali won the women's 800 metres in two minutes, 9.14 seconds, followed by Jordan's Alia Al-Mattar in 2:18.78 and Syria's Mirvat Baath in 2:23.12.

Qatar's Tala Mansour won the men's 200 metres sprint in a games record of 20.63 seconds followed by team mate Ibrahim Miftah in 20.85 and Morocco's Mohammed Hannouch in 21.23.

Mahjoub Hida of Morocco won the men's 800 metres in a new Arab record of one minute, 46.70 seconds. Jordan's Jihad Al-Balawi came second in 1:48.26 and Algeria's Haid Kat was third in 1:48.73.

Seville awaits final touches to Maradona contract

MADRID (AP) — Argentine soccer superstar Diego Maradona looks set to join Seville Football Club Sept. 20 once the final touches are put to a secret transfer deal already hammered out with Napoli, a newspaper reported Friday.

The leading daily El Pais said Maradona's agent Marcos Franchi was expected to fly to Seville shortly to conclude the deal forged between Seville — managed by former Argentine coach Carlos Bilardo — and the Italian club on Sept. 2.

The paper said details of the

deal would not be disclosed until next week.

According to the paper, Maradona, 31, has sought legal permission in Argentina to travel to Spain between Saturday and Tuesday and may attend the club's game against Deportivo De La Coruna Sunday.

Maradona completed a 15-month suspension for cocaine use July 1. Since then he has refused to return to Napoli, where he is under contract for a final season.

Napoli has insisted that the player is not for sale and that he must fulfill his contract.

Fischer, Spassky draw 6th game of epic rematch

SVETI STEFAN, Yugoslavia (R) — Chess legends Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky drew after 61 moves and more than seven hours of play in the sixth game of their epic \$5 million rematch.

Spassky, playing white and leading 2-1, came close to a third consecutive victory in the replay series between the chess giants in the Montenegrin resort of Sveti Stefan.

But the game ended in stalemate after both players made several serious errors.

"I missed many chances, maybe too many," Spassky said. "This was a very difficult game." Fischer said, sounding relieved. "I didn't play it exactly

somehow, it was lousy ... I was very, very bad, but somehow I slipped out."

The archrivals played a queen's gambit accepted to open, a move Fischer played only twice as black in his 700-game career.

Fischer and Spassky are playing what organisers have dubbed the revenge match of the 20th century, a replay of their world chess title contest in Reykjavik in 1972. Fischer won to become the first American to take the coveted chess crown.

Fischer then quit the chess scene and went into a 20-year self-imposed exile from which he has emerged to play this match.

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NORTH

♠ K 9 7

♥ A K 9 6

♦ 9 6 3

♣ A 8 2

WEST

♠ A J 3

♥ 7 5

♦ A K Q 5 2

♣ J 10 8 7 4

SOUTH

♠ Q 10 5

♥ Q J 10 8 4 3 2

♦ Void

♣ 9 7 4

The bidding:

West North East South

1 ♠ Db1 4 ♠ 4 ♠

Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

When you're engineering an end-play, you usually plan to present a specific opponent with the lead at the crucial moment. Once in a while, though, you are in the fortunate position of, in reply to the question which opponent you want to throw in, you can state, in the words of Rhett Butler: "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn."

With a good five-card suit and 18 high-card points, we agree that West's hand was too strong for an opening bid of one no trump. East jumped preemptively in an attempt

to keep the opponents out of the auction, but no one was going to stake out South. West might have sacrificed in five diamonds, which would have been untestable as the cards lie, since declarer can discard a spade on the queen of clubs before the defenders could collect two tricks in the suit.

Declarer ruffed the diamond opening lead and, to the uninitiated, it might seem that the fate of the contract rests on guessing which defender holds the jack of spades. However, South quickly demonstrated that the location of the knave was irrelevant.

After drawing trumps in two rounds, ending in dummy, declarer ruffed a diamond, crossed to the ace of clubs and ruffed the remaining diamond. That was all the groundwork that was required. South simply exited with a club and waited for the defenders to surrender the contract.

The defenders could organize matters so that either East or West could win the third club. But which-ever defender was then on lead would either have to break spades and spare declarer from having to guess spades, or lead a minor suit and present declarer with a ruff-shut, limiting the defensive spade tricks to one.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 1992

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Paying debts and making collections works out to your advantage now and you may want to settle some long-standing financial misunderstanding which has caused a rift with a worthwhile person.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Don't get upset by a communication from a distance or it can upset your usual activities and bring out the joy you have deep within yourself.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Don't let an obligation that has been limiting you keep you from enjoying a pleasure you have in your mind to put in motion for some time.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your duties can be difficult to perform today if you get involved in an altercation between a family member and an outside associate.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Your own special talent is taking some more time than you had anticipated to perfect but it will be worth all the effort you put in to it.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Look for some better means by which to handle those practical and financial problems that face you and especially where overspending on recreation is concerned.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) If you steer clear of problems later facing you beneath your own roof

today can be much more effective and special by making interesting calls and visits.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You find it possible to consider better ways to get whatever has to be done of a material nature along a better organized course of expression.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Now you are very much concerned with making your personal desires an actual part of your everyday existence and can do so by a little more ingenuity.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) It is advisable for you to talk less and plan more today if you are to make those wishes that mean so much to you a part of your intimate surroundings.

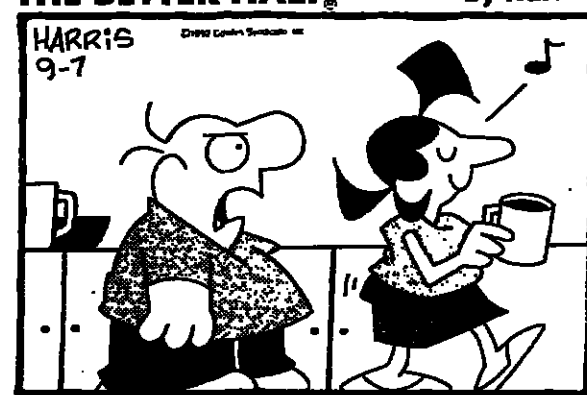
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) It is difficult for you to decide early just how to proceed to put into motion that personal plan but soon difficulties dissolve, you can gain them.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Make sure you do not early take any chances where your public image or outside activities are concerned and later they flow much more smoothly.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) An inspired idea early seems impossible to obtain but persevere and you find that conditions break very much in your favour a little later in the day.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"I'm depressed today! If you really loved me, you'd have the decency to feel depressed, too!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GINCI

YAHIR

TINOOL

ROGDEC

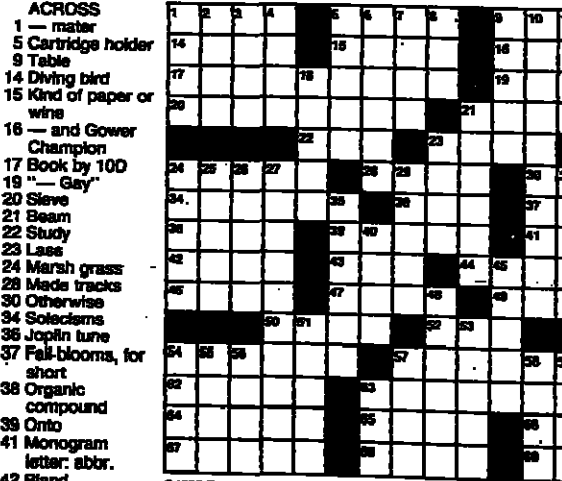
Answer: TO THE

Yesterday's Jumble: ARBOR TEMPO GAINED NEARLY

Answer: That lazy male honeybee did nothing but talk, and his conversation was this— LONG "DRONE" OUT

THE Daily Crossword

by Diane C. Baldwin



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1 — master

5 Cartridge holder

9 Table

14 Diving bird

15 Kind of paper or wire

16 — and Gower

17 Book by 100

19 — "Gay"

20 Sea

21 Beam

22 Study

23 Last

24 Marsh grass

25 Made tracks

30 Otherways

34 Solecisms

35 Joplin tune

37 Fall blooms, for

tear

38 Organic

compound

39 Onco

41 Monogram

letter abbr.

42 Blind

43 Boreal

44 Government

group

45 Ego

46 Snudge

47 Experts

48 Concur

49 Shakespeare

villain

52 Golf norm

53 Marmalade fruit

57 Report

62 Hollywood Hope

63 "Dr. No" hero

64 Tabasco fabric

65 Pyle or Ford

66 Square pillar

67 Wary

68 Danger

69 Corner

DOWN

1 Charity

2 Hunter

3 Secure a sloop

4 "King and I"

character

5 Wading bird

6 Compare

7 Bakery worker

8 — clam

9 Smudge

10 "Thunderbolt"

author

11 Word with fox or

dog

12 Lachrymose look

13 Close

14 Bill addition

21 Arrears

24 Equipment

25 Pyle or Ford

26 Corned

27 Corny movie

28 Prattle

31 LEM word

32 Stay

33 Ms. Lauder

35 Brutal

40 Texas town

43 English

nonhuman

48 Sprays

51 Go-between

52 Smart

54 Earthen pot

55 Child

56 — of a

Thousand

Days

57 Java neighbor

Financial Markets

in co-operation with
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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK Date 9/9/92 CLOSE	TOKYO Date 10/9/92 CLOSE
Sterling Pound*	1.9725	1.9663
Deutsche Mark	1.4140	1.4192
Swiss Franc	1.2532	1.2601
French Franc	4.8165	4.8490**
Japanese Yen	123.18	123.28
European Currency Unit	1.4306	1.4227**

* USD Per 100

** European Operating @ 200 a.m. GMT

Supplementary Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.00	3.00	3.04	3.18
Sterling Pound	10.06	10.31	10.50	10.50
Deutsche Mark	9.62	9.62	9.62	9.50
Swiss Franc	7.69	7.69	7.68	7.56
French Franc	10.12	10.31	10.31	10.31
Japanese Yen	4.34	4.00	3.87	3.81
European Currency Unit	11.37	11.37	11.37	11.37

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	342.15	6.40	Silver	3.74	.080

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.667	0.669
Sterling Pound	1.3099	1.3164
Deutsche Mark	0.4692	0.4715
Swiss Franc	0.5283	0.5309
French Franc	0.1378	0.1385
Japanese Yen*	0.5398	0.5425
Dutch Guilder	0.4162	0.4183
Swedish Krona	0.1284	0.1290
Italian Lira*	0.0614	0.0617
Belgian Franc	0.02296	0.02307

* Per 100

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7460	1.7560
Lebanese Lira*	0.0238	0.0288
Saudi Riyal	0.1770	0.1790
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3300	2.3100
Qatari Riyal	0.1802	0.1817
Egyptian Pound	0.0000	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7000	1.7200
UAE Dirham	0.1802	0.1817
Greek Drachma*	0.3780	0.3980
Cypriot Pound	1.6100	1.6300

* Per 100

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market*

Index	7/9/92	Close	8/9/92	Close
All-Share	145.26		145.62	
Banking Sector	105.99		106.73	
Insurance Sector	151.15		150.74	
Industry Sector	198.71		198.47	
Services Sector	197.91		198.42	

* December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.9425/35	U.S. dollars	1.2230/40
One U.S. dollar	1.4343/48	Canadian dollar	1.6140/50
	1.2715/25	Deutsche marks	1.2715/25
	29.56/60	Dutch guilders	4.8650/700
	1096/1098	Swiss francs	123.62/67
	5.2375/475	French francs	5.6695/795
	5.5410/510	Italian lire	5.5410/510
One ounce of gold	\$340.75/341.25	Japanese yen	
		Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	

Gillette to buy Parker

BOSTON (R) — Gillette Co., the maker of Paper Mate and Waterman brand pens, said Thursday it is buying British-based Parker Pen Holdings Ltd. in a deal worth £285 million pounds, or \$561 million.

The Boston-based company said the purchase would make it the world's biggest maker of pens.

Parker, which has been making pens since 1892, was acquired by British investors in 1986. Based in Newhaven, England, the privately held company's North American headquarters are in Janesville, Wisconsin.

Parker pen makes assorted fountain and ball-point pens under the Parker, Duofold, Vector and Jotter brand names. "Parker represents an excellent fit with the Gillette Paper

Mate and Waterman brands," said Joel Davis, Gillette's vice president for stationary products. "Parker is distributed in more than 120 countries and has one of the best-recognized names in the world," he said.

Gillette said the acquisition, to be financed through borrowings, should not have any effect on its earnings in either 1992 or 1993. In 1991, Gillette sold \$460 million worth of pens out of total products sales of \$4.7 billion.

Gillette said that in the financial year that ended on Feb. 28 Parker had profits of \$35.9 million pounds (\$70.7 million) before interest and taxes, and sales of \$181 million (\$359.6 million).

It is the world's biggest maker of shaving blades and razors. Its products are distributed through wholesalers, retailers in more than 200 countries.

Romanian banknotes recycled as toilet paper

BUCHAREST (R) — Romanians have had their deepest suspicions confirmed — the fast depreciating lei banknotes are only fit for toilet paper.

The Evenimentul Zilei newspaper said a student sent it samples of toilet paper containing fragments of 100 lei notes.

National Bank spokesman Vasile Barcu told the daily the bank shreds five to six tonnes of notes weekly and sends them to paper mills for recycling, sometimes into toilet paper.

The 100-lei note was the largest

The 100-lei banknote — many are so threadbare that you can hardly read them and so dirty that you must wash your hands after touching them — is gradually being replaced by a coin.

New banknotes of 500, 1,000 and 5,000 lei have also been introduced as inflation soars with the introduction of free-market mechanisms.

Jordan's refinery company, government seem unable to reconcile financial row

By Samir Shalabi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "Arabia" is an Arabic word that means profits but it can also mean dividends if it stands alone without further clarification. As such, the exact meaning and the specific understanding of "arab" have been the cause of a long and bitter row between the government and the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. Ltd. (JPRC).

According to the refinery's 36th annual report for the year 1991, the government claims that the company owes it JD 7.3 million over the period 1981-1985 and JD 13.0 million from 1986-1990.

The government claims that, according to article six of the concession signed with the JPRC on Nov. 16, 1956, the company is entitled to keep only a portion of its net profits and that portion is the amount that is specifically 16 per cent of the company's paid-up capital.

Any profits, the government argues, that exceed 16 per cent of the refinery's paid-up capital should go to the treasury.

The government underlines and insists on the aforementioned concept by pointing to the concession agreement which requires "that the company submit to the government a detailed list of production costs and that the government, in consultation with the company, fix a sale price list on condition that profit (including income tax) does not exceed 16 per cent and does not exceed the 7.5 per cent level of the company's nominal share value.

JPRC has refused to honour the government's demand for payment and stood firm in asserting that it was under no obligation to do so. JPRC made it clear that a government committee has each year examined and approved the cost, income and profit accounts and that the finance minister himself had annually authenticated the ministry's financial accounts which were kept by JPRC.

JPRC takes the problematic issue into further complications by giving the profit concept, mentioned in article six, its own definition.

The company argues that the 16 per cent ceiling on profit was

only meant to fix a sale price to protect the consumer from any unfair decisions that the concession might give rise to.

JPRC dismisses the argument that the profit ceiling of 16 per cent was intended to draw a line between the rights of the company and the rights of the treasury or that it was intended to give the excess profit to any party. "The (profit) ceiling was not originally specified to share profits between the two sides but to specify a reasonable sale price," the company said in its annual report.

The company said the government wrongly sees the profit in article six as JPRC's net profit including all allocations to reserves, income tax and other apportionments because, at the time of signing the concession agreement, profit was meant to be the share profit. JPRC continued that since the profit in article six was related to the share value and since the income tax law specified the profit on shares then the understanding of article six should be that of share profit.

JPRC said the government was also inaccurate in its calculations. The company pointed out that the JD 20.3 million demanded by the government even included the income tax which JPRC had paid during the period from 1981-1985 and from 1986-1990.

The annual report of the company dug up the roots of the conflict between JPRC and the government going back as far as 1973, the year when turbulence hit the world oil market.

As a result, the report said, the government side-stepped the imbalance between higher production costs and the sale price of fuel and opted to absorb the deficit which showed in the form of subsidy to the consumer, Royal Jordanian and the Jordan Electricity Authority among other government or semi-government institutions.

By overlooking the concession terms to fix sale prices in light of production costs, the report pointed out, the government fixed sale price no longer kept pace with world oil prices.

The imbalance between production costs and sale prices continued and a joint committee from both parties failed to sort out the financial complications.

IMF sees budget deficits as global threat

WASHINGTON (R) — Mushrooms budget deficits in the United States and other industrial nations pose a serious threat to the well-being of the global economy, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) warned Thursday.

The IMF, which acts as the policeman of the world economy, urged policy-makers to act decisively to stem the government red ink by raising taxes, cutting expenditures or a combination of both.

In its annual report, the international lending agency said that virtually any step to deal with the growing problem was preferable to doing nothing.

"Budget deficits, which have recently widened again... are one of the most fundamental threats to the world economy," an IMF official told journalists in a briefing on the report.

The IMF is worried because it believes that the burgeoning budget deficits of industrial countries are sapping up the world's scarce resources, often for unproductive uses, and helping to keep global interest rates high worldwide.

The new warning on deficits comes against the background of a transformation of the global economy, with former Soviet Bloc nations shifting from communism to capitalism with the help of the IMF.

At the same time, all of capital-

ism's economic powerhouses — the United States, Japan and Germany — are experiencing economic malaise or outright recession.

The IMF said the deficits diminish the ability of governments to deal with economic problems and crises when they arise.

"If (the reduction in deficits) can only be achieved through revenue increases or through combinations of expenditure cuts and revenue increases, I think it is fair to say that the board would consider this clearly superior to leaving the budget deficits at their current level," the official told reporters.

In the past, the IMF has been critical of the mountain of debt accumulated by the United States, scolding Washington for being unable to curb its deficit growth.

But officials made clear that this wasn't a U.S. problem alone, citing deficit increases in Britain because of the recession there as well as in Germany, where the country is attempting to absorb the costs associated with reunification.

Germany, for its part, has become the focus of a global interest rate dispute that has divided industrial country policy-makers and is being blamed for exacerbating the European recession and torpedoing the value of the dollar.

German policy-makers, worried that the vast costs associated with reunification would generate inflation, have held the line on interest rates, keeping them high despite the weak European economy.

At the same time, the United States has slipped away at rates in an attempt to revitalize its economy, undermining the value of the dollar.

IMF officials agreed that the German position was undermining economic growth in Europe but said this did not necessarily mean Bonn policy-makers should reconsider their position.

"This does not mean, however, that the board would favour a relaxation of monetary policy in Germany, given the constraints Germany is facing," the official said.

At the same time, he said the board was "concerned about the weakness of the dollar."

The IMF said it has adequate funding for the time being to conduct its lending operations but its capital is being eroded and could be reduced even more by

and, as a result, the whole problem was put for a solution to an arbitration committee on June 20, 1983.

The arbitration committee decided that profit as mentioned in article six should include income tax only when calculated in the 16 per cent bracket and not at the 7.5 per cent level. Also, the arbitrators managed to conclude a financial settlement whereby JPRC paid the treasury JD 4.9 million, an amount found to be in excess of the 16 per cent profit ceiling.

Within the context of the financial settlement, the minister of finance became the "power" to specify the net annual dividends for the company and; by adding the dividends to the normal operating costs of JPRC, the dividends distributed to shareholders ranged between 7.5 per cent and 12 per cent from 1983 to 1989.

According to the report, JPRC had previously complained that the highest permissible profit of 16 per cent translated to be only 5.9 per cent after various deductions for higher income tax and newly required university fees and scientific research.

Realising that the accounting system was in total disagreement with the norms and general practices and that there was no incentives to improve the company's operations and efficiency, both parties formed a new committee to reevaluate the entire relationship between them.

The new committee, after two years of intensive studies, drew up a memorandum of understanding which was a major development hailed by JPRC as the beginning of a new era to improve efficiency, cut costs and boost profit within a framework of "commercial operation" basis.

The good news did not last long because when the company sought to legalise the July 1990 memorandum of understanding, the government responded by cancelling the memorandum in 1991 and refused in 1992 to reconsider its decision.

The cancellation, according to one source, was prompted by an offensive that was launched by some deputies in the Lower House of Parliament against the company and the government.

Having cancelled the memo-

andum of understanding, the government pushed the whole conflict back to square one and JPRC had no choice but to announce JD 1,496,397, or 4.7 per cent of the paid-up capital, in dividends for the past year.

However, in order to meet the minimum 7.5 per cent of the paid-up capital condition specified in article six of the concession, JPRC had to borrow JD 903,603 from the obligatory reserve to be able to distribute the dividends at that rate.

The company distributed JD 4,160,000 in dividends in 1990, a 13 per cent of the net profit which amounted to JD 4,581,854 compared to the net profit of JD 2,106,596 in 1991.

JPRC's 1991 annual report detailed the difficulties the company encountered during the past year before and in the aftermath of the Gulf war. Citing mainly the cessation of oil flow from traditional sources and the continued closure of the Tipline, which is still blocked, the company suffered a tremendous depletion of its strategic supply which hit its lowest level ever.

Being forced to seek oil supplies from Yemen, Syria, Turkey and Lebanon and even from "vendor vessels" and to request government help to curb the movement of private cars to save fuel, JPRC was also hit by higher costs for freight and insurance and other expenses resulting from delays, losses and inspection procedures at sea by allied powers.

The financial standing of JPRC at the end of 1991 was as follows:

- 1) Total assets/liabilities and equity reaching JD 206.9 million, up from JD 191.5 million in 1990.
- 2) Capital and reserves totalling JD 54.9 million.
- 3) Long-term liability (an advance from the Ministry of Finance) of JD 27.8 million.
- 4) Current liabilities of JD 121.8 million.
- 5) Current assets of JD 181.7 million.
- 6) Fixed assets after depreciation of JD 22 million.

A knowledgeable accountant said the company should conduct a reevaluation of its assets because all of these were being recorded at cost while current and market prices would completely change the financial image of JPRC.

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Bosnia death toll soars, health situation worsens

SARAJEVO (R) — The official death toll in Bosnia-Herzegovina soared above 10,000 Friday, and with disease multiplying, the city's crisis centre issued an urgent appeal for disinfectants and medical supplies.

United Nations spokesmen said Sarajevo Airport, where relief flights have been halted for the past eight days, was now formally closed. This was apparently due to renewed clashes near the village of Baric, where Muslim fighters have been making a determined push in recent days.

But Bosnian Radio denied reports that the capital's defences were attempting to break the five-month Serbian siege or had seized territory in the western area of Nedelice.

Local fighters there said Muslims had moved forward of their lines overnight and planted flags in no-man's-land before returning.

"It gives them (the Serbs) something to shoot at," said one Sarajevo Medical Crisis Centre issued new figures showing a sharp rise in casualties from the war.

It said 10,503 people had been killed and 44,955 seriously wounded in the whole of Bosnia-Herzegovina since the fighting began in April.

The figures included 2,037 killed and 12,293 seriously hurt in Sarajevo itself.

In addition, 53,200 people were registered as missing or "liquidated."

The centre, which admits its figures cannot cover all parts of the republic, said it had counted some 5,500 patients with gastroenteritis — 1,765 of them in Sarajevo.

And reflecting the precarious sanitary conditions in the capital,

it recorded 225 cases of food poisoning, 136 of hepatitis and dysentery and four of abdominal typhus. The centre appealed to foreign journalists to tell the world of Sarajevo's urgent need for antibiotics, anaesthetics, vaccines against hepatitis, bandages, medical alcohol, oxygen, chlorine for disinfecting water, incubators for premature babies, blankets, mobile generators and building materials to prepare for winter.

Peace envoys Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen reported after their visit to the capital of Thursday that they had gained Serb agreement for the United Nations to take over responsibility for the water and electricity supply.

But few people set much store by the promise.

"What Karadzic (the Bosnian Serb leader) gives one day he takes away the next," said one Muslim.

Residents were also unimpressed by the flying visit of the envoys, noting that many such initiatives had previously failed to end their suffering.

The ease with which Mr. Vance and Lord Owen, unlike themselves, could pass in and out through the siege lines produced cynicism, not hope, they added.

Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panic, receiving peace envoys Lord Owen and Mr. Vance for talks, said Friday Belgrade's political and military leadership were keen to end ethnic fighting in Bosnia.

Mr. Vance and Lord Owen met Mr. Panic and members of the Yugoslav army general staff and were to see Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic later.

"The new army of Yugoslavia is prepared for peace. So you can count on us. We are here to negotiate peace, whatever is necessary (for it)," Mr. Panic

said, heartily welcoming Mr. Vance and Lord Owen at Belgrade's federal government building.

"We're looking forward very much to what I consider a very important meeting," Mr. Vance said, without elaborating.

Mr. Milosevic and the Serbian-dominated federal army are widely blamed abroad for arming and inciting Bosnia's minority Serbs to revolt against a March vote for independence from Belgrade by the Muslim and Croat communities.

Belgrade says the last federal troops were withdrawn from Bosnia months ago and denies supporting Serb irregulars there. But many are former army regulars who, supplied from the federal arsenal, have seized two-thirds of Bosnia and created land corridors to eastern neighbour Serbia.

Mr. Vance and Lord Owen began talks with Mr. Panic and Yugoslav generals after an initial meeting with Federal President Dobrica Cosic.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic accused Muslim forces Friday of shooting down an Italian relief plane and said they used a U.S.-made Stinger missile originally supplied to U.S.-backed Afghan rebels.

Mr. Karadzic, in a statement faxed to London from his headquarters near the Bosnian capital Sarajevo, said U.N. investigators had reached the same conclusions but were withholding the information due to American sensibilities.

"The United States government are understandably concerned about the full implications of one of their missiles being used to kill U.N. troops," he said.

"However, I hope that this will not deter the U.N. from making

their findings public."

In Zagreb Wednesday, U.N. said the Italian G-222 transporter was shot down last Thursday in an area of Bosnia controlled by Croat forces but said the group responsible had not yet been identified. The four crew were killed.

Mr. Karadzic said: "Our own intelligence suggests that (U.N.) investigators have already established that the aircraft was shot down by a Stinger missile ... supplied originally by the United States of America to Pakistan for use by Afghan rebels." He said the missile was imported from Pakistan, a conduit for clandestinely-supplied U.S. arms to Mujahideen rebels battling Afghanistan's Communist government in the 1980s.

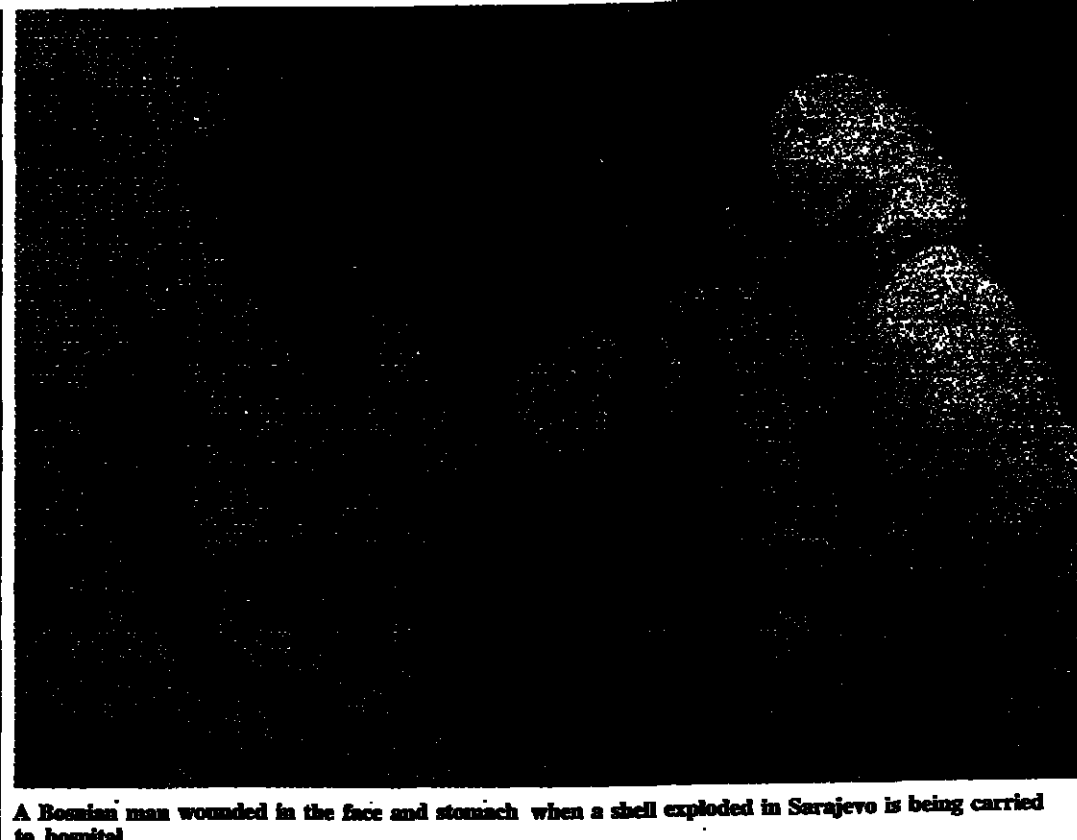
U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali Thursday recommended an enlarged peacekeeping force to escort convoys in Bosnia-Herzegovina that could reach 7,500 troops and support staff.

In a report to the Security Council he gave no precise numbers but said the current 1,500-strong force in Sarajevo could increase as much as five times, which would mean 6,000 more personnel. He did not recommend any air cover.

The Security Council is expected to adopt a resolution, perhaps as early as Friday, authorising the expanded force.

It will also adopt a second resolution banning warplanes over Bosnia-Herzegovina by any of the combatants, as agreed at last month's London conference on Yugoslavia.

Diplomats said they doubted Serb forces, who might have access to warplanes, were using them but precautions needed to be taken.



A Bosnian man wounded in the face and stomach when a shell exploded in Sarajevo is being carried to hospital

Armenia-Azerbaijan talks failure raises fears of Caucasian flare-up

ROME (R) — Diplomats expressed fears Friday of a new flare-up in the Caucasus after the latest round of international talks aimed at securing a ceasefire in the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh ended in failure.

Armenia's chief delegate, Kristian Der-Sapianian, said he had heard from his country's presidency in Yerevan that Azeri troops were concentrating near Agdam, east of the enclave where over 2,000 have been killed since 1988.

He said Armenia suspected Azerbaijan was taking advantage of a border truce negotiated between the two ex-Soviet republics last month to move forces into position for a new offensive against Nagorno-Karabakh's Armenians.

Other diplomats involved in the 11-nation talks, which ended in Rome Thursday night, echoed these misgivings.

"Of course there are fears of a new military escalation now that we have failed to impose a ceasefire," a senior envoy said.

The Armenian negotiator said Yerevan had counted 90 violations of the 'border ceasefire' in force with Azerbaijan since Sept. 1 and expressed fears these would only increase unless the fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh itself ended.

The enclave's predominantly Armenian population has been ruled by Turkish-speaking Azeris since 1923 when the new Soviet state put Baku in control.

Although the agreement negotiated in the Kazakh capital Alma-Ata on Aug. 27 was widely reported to have included Nagorno-Karabakh, both Armenia and Azerbaijan have since insisted that the truce did not apply to the territory.

The Alma-Ata agreement was negotiated without the knowledge of the official mediator in the dispute, Italy, while Italian diplomats were touring the region. Diplomats in Rome said the accord had caused huge confusion and raised false expectations.

The Rome talks broke up without any agreement on if and when the negotiations should resume. Armenia said Thursday it was clear the Rome process has dead and that the United Nations, should now be given a chance to mediate a settlement.

Other diplomats said it was difficult to imagine how the U.N. could succeed where a group of 11 nations had failed.

In practice, the failure to set a new date for a meeting has paralysed Italy's six-month-old mediating effort on behalf of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

It will now be up to a Sept. 16-18 Prague meeting of the CSCE's committee of senior officials, which includes representatives from all 52 member states, to decide whether or not the CSCE should pursue its peace mission.

In Istanbul, Armenian Foreign

Minister Raffi Hovannisian accused Turkey Thursday of siding with Azerbaijan over disputed Nagorno-Karabakh.

"Turkey has departed from its initial position of neutrality on Nagorno-Karabakh to one of taking sides," Mr. Hovannisian told a news conference during the Council of Europe's special meeting in Istanbul.

"That is something obviously does not speak well for Turkey's position in this part of the world, for its neutral approach to matters."

"There is now one single obstacle... that is unfortunately because Azerbaijan has a military advantage in Nagorno-Karabakh, it is refusing to agree to any ceasefire," Mr. Hovannisian said.

Council of Europe foreign ministers gathered in Istanbul for a two-day meeting to hear former Soviet republics' views and hopes. The Armenian and Azeri foreign ministers had to sit side by side in an alphabetical seating plan.

Mr. Hovannisian said Armenia was seeking to normalise relations with Turkey despite the "tragic events in 1915" and "Armenian-Turkish relations should not be used as a pretext for denying Armenia access into European institutions."

Armenia accuses Turkey of massacring some 1.5 million Armenians during World War I. Turkey does not accept the charges.

Italian astronaut arrives home without suitcase

ROME (R) — Italy's first man in orbit, dogged by bad luck during his space travels, arrived in Genoa only to find that his suitcase, complete with the Italian flag that made the voyage with him, was missing. Malerba complained to reporters on his arrival from London that his missing suitcase also contained a shirt he had planned to give Italian Prime Minister Giuliano Amato as a souvenir of his trip. The flag was for Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro. Malerba, one of seven astronauts on the U.S. space shuttle Atlantis, attempted to launch the first tethered satellite which Italian scientists had hoped would produce electricity in space. The experiment was scrapped when astronauts failed to unsnarl the cable which would have allowed the satellite full orbit.

Bardot condemns killing of baby seals off Namibia

PARIS (R) — Retired French screen idol Brigitte Bardot voiced outrage over what she called the massacre of 40,000 baby seals off the coast of Namibia and urged Windhoek officials to stop the killing. "Deeply distressed and outraged by the massacre of 40,000 baby seals currently taking place on the Atlantic coast of Namibia, Brigitte Bardot is launching a moving appeal to the authorities of this country for the barbarity to cease," an animals' rights foundation bearing her name said in a statement. Ms. Bardot has led a vociferous campaign to protect animals since she retired from acting.

Princess Anne arrives in India

NEW DELHI (R) — Britain's Princess Anne, the daughter of Queen Elizabeth, arrived in India at the start of a six-day private visit. She called on Vice President K.R. Narayanan and inaugurated a medical clinic in the British High Commission (Embassy). The princess leaves Friday for the Himalayan region of Ladakh, where she will visit camps run by the Save The Children Fund, of which she is president.

Australian boxer fined for assault

SYDNEY (R) — Australia's triple world boxing champion Jeff Fenech was found guilty of punching and spitting at a Sydney greengrocer in a row over one of the man's employees. Fenech, 28, Australia's most successful boxer with world titles in three different divisions, was fined Australian dollars 300 (\$215) by a Sydney magistrate's court for his attack on George Mouzyaza. Three other men, also charged with assault and violent disorder over the same incident in November last year, were found guilty and fined. Fenech had denied laying a hand on Mr. Mouzyaza, saying he would not have risked his boxing career by hitting someone with his fragile bare hands. If he had landed one punch, the greengrocer "would have woken up 10 minutes later," he said. However, Magistrate Peter Miazalski said he preferred to believe the account of an independent witness. The court was told that Mouzyaza had a bloody, bruised face after the four men left the fruit and vegetable market. The men had argued over an employee of Mouzyaza's who had previously worked for one of them.

Madonna not fit to be Miss America

ATLANTIC CITY (AP) — Madonna could never be Miss America because she lacks "wholesome" image it takes to be crowned, the pageant's director says. "Madonna is certainly not someone we would even want to be a role model for our programme," Leonard C. Horn, chairman of the Miss America organisation, said in an interview. "I think the image she projects is definitely unwholesome." To compete for the Miss America title a woman must be an American citizen, 26 years old or younger, single and must never have been pregnant. "We're looking for wholesome young women," Mr. Horn said. "Miss America is the visualised American maiden." The pageant defines "wholesome" as a woman who loves her country, is physically attractive, intelligent, articulate, feminine, glamorous, ambitious, educated and has specific career goals.

Japan tries to deflect blame for Yeltsin no-show

TOKYO (R) — Japanese leaders tried Friday to shift the blame being heaped on them by domestic and Russian critics for President Boris Yeltsin's abrupt decision to call off his visit to Tokyo.

Chief government spokesman Koichi Kato felt it necessary to tell reporters for the second time in 24 hours that domestic problems, not Japan's unbending demand for the return of two Russian-held islands, forced Mr. Yeltsin to postpone the trip.

"We plan to convey this to our foreign allies," Mr. Kato told a news conference. "I think they will understand."

Mr. Yeltsin caught Japan by surprise Wednesday when he begged off just four days before he was due to arrive.

It had become evident the visit was doomed to failure because of differences over the future of the disputed islands off northern Japan. Moscow calls them the southern Kuriles but Tokyo insists they are in "Northern Territories."

Despite the Japanese government's talk of Russian domestic woes, Mr. Yeltsin clearly blames Japan for the postponement.

"Japan has been too categorical about the islands," he said Friday on arrival in the Volga city of Cheboksary.

"We cannot deal like that," Mr. Yeltsin insisted. "It is clear Russia cannot give away the Kurile Islands just like that."

Russia experts in Tokyo said Japan's refusal to budge on its policy of withholding economic aid to Russia until it regains the islands had left Mr. Yeltsin with no room to manoeuvre.

They said his conservative advisers in Moscow fiercely opposed any concessions on the islands, seized by the Soviet army at the end of World War II.

Japanese leaders remain impatient over their basic policy of linking aid to a resolution of the territorial dispute.

"The Japanese position remains unchanged," Foreign Ministry spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa told reporters Friday. "What is flexible is how to achieve (the return of the islands)."

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe himself said Friday that Japan had been prepared to ease its stance once Yeltsin arrived.

He said the government would have settled for a confirmation of a 1956 Soviet-Japan declaration. In this, Moscow agreed to return the two smaller islands once the countries had signed a World War II peace treaty, a step still unachieved 36 years later.

Tokyo also wanted Russia to agree to discuss the future of the two larger islands, he said.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

French polls show pro-Maastricht Majority

PARIS (R) — Three opinion polls released Thursday forecast a 'yes' vote of between 51 and 53 per cent in France's Sept. 20 referendum on the European Community's Maastricht Treaty on European union. An Ipsos poll for the weekly Le Point and a CSA survey for the daily Le Parisien both forecast a 53 per cent "yes" vote, with 47 per cent against. The polls, conducted Wednesday and Thursday, respectively, said 22 and 26 per cent of voters were still undecided. The polls have a margin of error of about three per cent, indicating the result is still too close to call. A private ISL poll conducted Monday and Tuesday for the Societe Generale Bank and released Thursday showed 51 per cent in favour and 49 against.

Pakistan rains kill 275 people

ISLAMABAD (R) — Heavy monsoon rains have killed more than 275 people in northern Pakistan in two days and destroyed thousands of mud homes, officials said. Most of the victims were killed by landslides or drowned as flooded rivers swept away bridges and roads. The government called in the army to drop food to stranded villages or to evacuate stranded villagers. Officials and relief workers said the death toll could be much higher as reports had yet to arrive from remote mountainous areas. More than 130 people killed in the Hazara division of the North West Frontier Province, the regional commissioner, Abdur Rauf Khan, told the PPI news agency. Earlier reports put the Hazara toll at 70. In Poonjab province, officials said more than 70 people were killed, including 30 drowned when their boat capsized in the Jhelum River as they were being evacuated to a safer area.

Collor gets more time for defence

BRASILIA, Brazil (R) — Brazilian President Fernando Collor has won up to a one-week delay in the start of the process that could lead to his possible impeachment. The country's Supreme Court allowed him more time to prepare his defence against charges of corruption, granting him five more sitting days of parliament or until Sept. 22, to do so. Seven of the eight justices debating an appeal presented by Mr. Collor said the president was entitled to a period of five more congressional sessions beyond Sept. 15 — the date set by the lower house — to present his defence. Supreme Court President Sidney Sanchez said the court was postponing its ruling on an appeal by Mr. Collor declaring the procedure timetable chosen by the lower house unconstitutional, until he received more information from the lower house and from the state prosecutor. He said he would also postpone the court's ruling on another appeal by Mr. Collor in which he considers unconstitutional the decision by the lower house to make the impeachment vote public.

CIS strengthens Afghan border

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan (R) — Russian-controlled border troops on the Tajik-Afghan frontier are being rapidly reinforced to stop gun-running threatening the heart of what was once Soviet Central Asia. The immediate aim is to head off further conflict in Tajikistan itself, where opposition forces removed President Rakhmon Nabiyev from power Monday after an armed showdown at Dushanbe's main airport. "If our forces were at 40 to 50 per cent strength before, we hope will bring them up to about 90 per cent in coming days," Colonel Pyotr Lamyakov, the deputy commander of border forces, said in an interview. "The border must be secured," he added. "It is vital for the entire region and for Russia as well."

5 die in South African blast

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Five people died in an explosion which rocked a South African chemical factory, the plant's owners said. The company, Karbochem, said in a statement the blast occurred at its Newcastle works in eastern Natal while triethyl-aluminium was being released from a storage vessel. Two workers died in hospital and three were missing and presumed dead, the company said. It said it was investigating the explosion and would release more details later.

Ariane rocket releases 2 satellites

PARIS (R) — Western Europe's 53rd Ariane rocket launched two satellites for Spain and a U.S. firm after blasting off from French Guiana. Officials at a monitoring centre near Paris said the Ariane 4 rocket completed take-off at 8.04 p.m. (2304 GMT) without a hitch. "The mission is accomplished and it was a success. It was exactly on schedule," an Ariane spokeswoman said. Twenty minutes after leaving the launch pad, the rocket, equipped with four strap-on boosters, deployed two satellites — Hispanat-1-A for Hispanat of Spain and Satcom-C3 for the U.S. company GE American Communications.

Pretoria studies 'encouraging' ANC statement

JOHANNESBURG (R) — President F.W. de Klerk met senior ministers Friday to study the African National Congress's (ANC) conditional acceptance of his call for a summit on violence.

Government sources described the ANC statement Thursday as encouraging and a cause for optimism.

Mr. De Klerk, reacting to the killing of at least 28 ANC protesters by troops of the Ciskei black homeland Monday, urged ANC leaders Wednesday to meet him in a fresh bid to end political killings.

He said efforts to draft a non-racial constitution, stalled since May with severe damage to the economy, could not proceed without "removing the obstacle of violence." At least 6,000 blacks have died in township wars since Mr. De Klerk began dismantling apartheid in February 1990.

ANC Secretary-General Cyril Ramaphosa told a news conference Thursday the movement was prepared to meet government leaders once they had taken practical steps towards meeting 14 demands the ANC first presented in June.

He specified the need to release about 400 political prisoners who the ANC says are still in detention and to tighten security at migrant workers hostels. Many of the hostels are strongholds of the rival Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party.

"We're delighted," Sheila Camerer of the ruling National Party told Reuters. "The imperative for the leaders to talk is so strong that I foresee this will lead the way to talks. This is the can opener from the ANC side."

Bush comes up with economic game plan

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush is offering a new economic plan that he hopes will persuade American voters he is up to the job of guiding the U.S. economy into the boom years he thinks lie ahead.

Trying to turn a liability into an asset, Mr. Bush confronted his perceived weakness on the economy by laying out his "agenda for American renewal" in a speech to the Detroit Economic Club Thursday.

Democratic candidate Bill Clinton called it all "more of the same."

"He wants to give another big tax cut to the wealthy, a small sop to the middle class, and make elderly people on medicare and students going to college and disabled veterans pay for it," he said in a statement videotaped from his home state of Arkansas.

The challenger for the presidency said Mr. Bush's economic policy "hasn't worked and it won't work... I hope the American people will reject this and go for a real change and a new direction."

Mr. Bush's campaign for reelection, battling to reverse a trend in opinion polls showing Mr. Bush trailing Mr. Clinton by as much as 15 percentage points, aired its first nationwide television advertisement Thursday night. The five-minute broadcast highlighted the president's economic plan.

Aides trumpeted the speech as the most important of Mr. Bush's campaign to stay in office and hoped it would change voters' minds about his ability to deal with economic problems.

Mr. Bush renewed his pledge to seek across-the-board tax cuts if he wins the Nov. 3 election, but did not spell out what he had in mind. He said he wants to strike free-trade deals with European and Asian nations similar to those negotiated with Canada and Mex-

ico.

Borrowing a proposal from Texas billionaire Ross Perot, Mr. Bush also offered to cut his 1,800-member staff by one-third if Congress cut its 16,000-member staff by the same amount.

Mr. Bush resumed his attacks on Clinton as a tax-and-spend liberal dedicated to big government.

Mr. Bush said his agenda was based on 13 proposals he would offer to Congress in the first year of his second term.

Most of the items, from education to health-care reforms, were familiar Bush proposals. One of the few new elements was a request for authority to negotiate new trade pacts with Central European and Pacific nations.

He set a high goal for the economy, saying: "We will create a \$10 trillion economy, and we will renew America, and we will win the peace."

A \$10 trillion annual output

would nearly double the 1991 total of about \$5.7 trillion, but Mr. Bush said he thought it was a realistic goal despite the current economic stagnation.

A senior administration official said that to achieve the president's new goal, the economy would have to grow by 3.5 to 4 per cent a year over the next decade.

It has lately achieved barely half that rate.

A senior administration official said Mr. Bush outlined his economic agenda to give the voters something to compare with Mr. Clinton's plan, which the Democrat outlined earlier this year.

Mr. Bush claimed that Mr. Clinton's proposals would put 13 per cent of the U.S. economy under federal government control.

"I want a government that spends less, regulates less and taxes less," he said.

small airport to its only air-conditioned building.

He will be joined in the town Saturday by the chief of the UNTAC, Japanese diplomat Yasushi Akashi, and UNTAC's military chief, Australian Lieutenant-General John Sanderson.

The Khmer Rouge says the United Nations has left too much power in the hands of the Phnom Penh government, which was installed by the Vietnamese after the Khmer Rouge's reign of terror was ended in Cambodia.

The radical guerrilla faction, which oversaw the deaths of a million Cambodians between 1975 and 1978, has demanded that a greater governmental role be given to the all-faction Supreme National Council (SNC).

A large billboard in Phnom Penh spelled out the Khmer Rouge position.

"Unless the Paris agreement is correctly implemented," it said in Khmer and in English, "Unless the Vietnamese withdrawal is verified, unless the SNC is the sole authority in Cambodia, there will be no deployment (of U.N. peacekeeping troops) in this western area."

